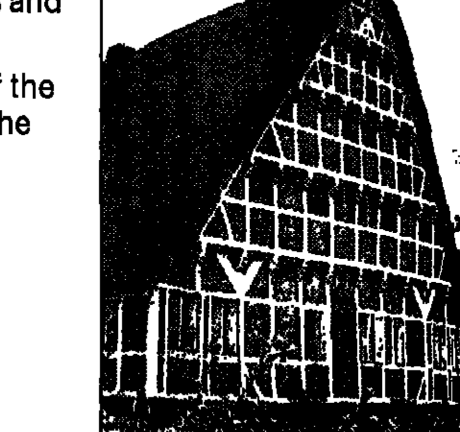
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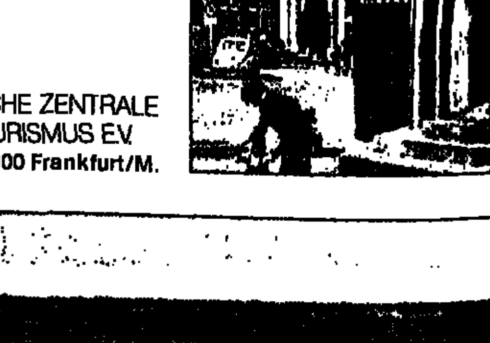
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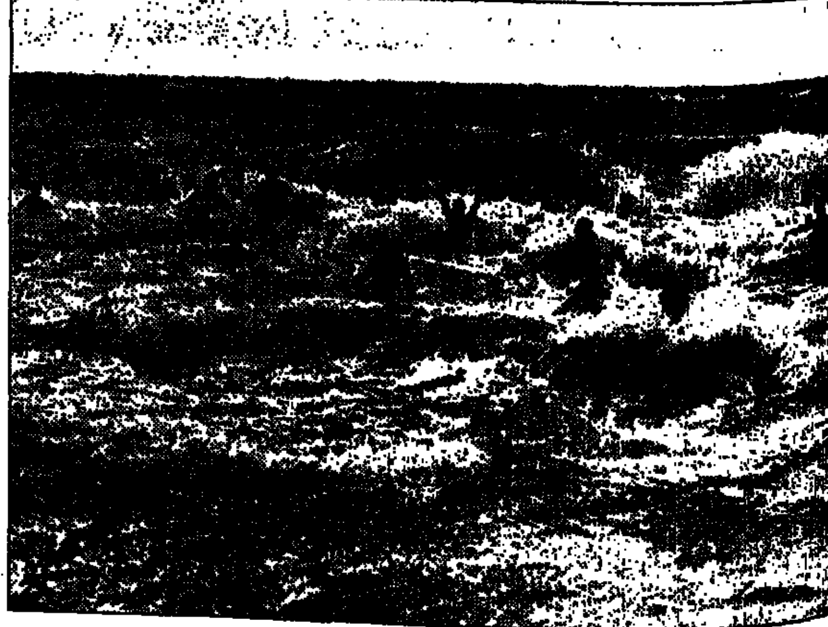


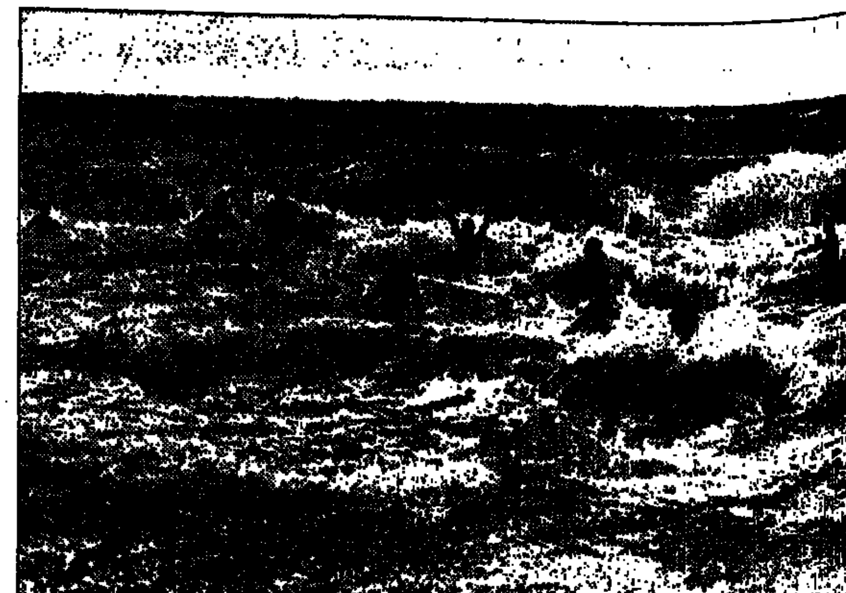


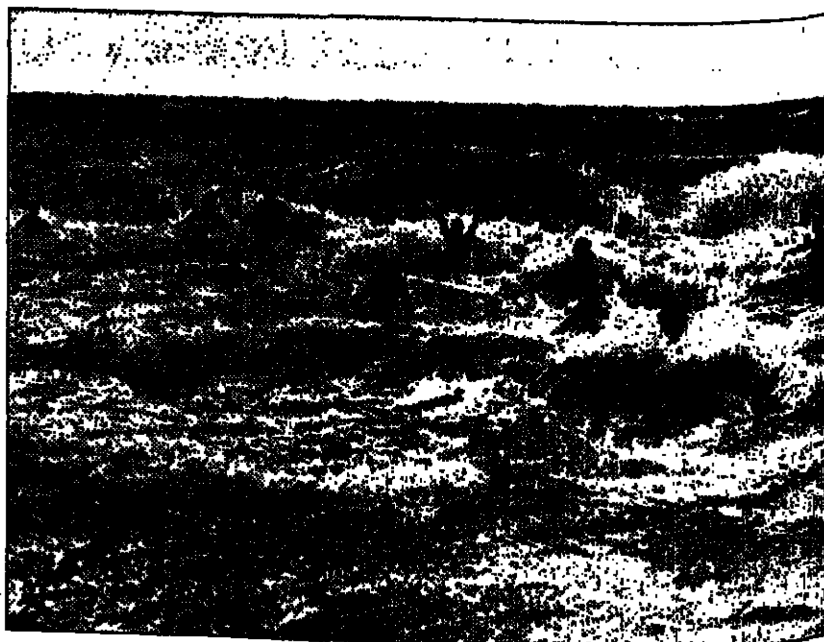




1 Neuharlingersiel
2 A Frisian farmhouse in the Altes Land
3 Bremen
4 The North Sea







The German Tribune

Hamburg, 8 July 1984
Twenty-third year - No. 1140 - By air

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A little step towards a better farm policy

DIE WELT

After a succession of EEC summit failures, the meeting at Fontainebleau came as a welcome success.

The EEC leaders may not have taken a major step towards a better agricultural policy, but at least they moved in the right direction.

Mrs Thatcher, of course, finally got the billions she has been demanding.

Unlike previous years she has now made sure of her rebate for at least three years: three years of quiet on the rebate front, as against annual skirmishes. Is that European progress?

But grand promises to reach a long-term financial settlement for the entire EEC have not been kept.

Instead of a realignment to ensure that all members benefit, the Ten tended to tinker with the symptoms again.

To say a radical realignment was unrealistic is to beg the question. Why, if that is the case, was one heralded?

If the EEC were not two thirds an agricultural community in terms of budget funds, Britain would get greater benefit than it has.

A Common Agricultural Fund (CAP) realignment should have been the main item on the European agenda for the last few years, and not just Britain's budget refund.

To be fair, it must not be forgotten that major Common Market problems, such as a start to CAP reform, were solved at the last summit in Brussels.

EEC leaders may not have embarked on a major step in the direction of a more sensible common agricultural market, but they at least took modest steps in the right direction.

Agreement on quota limitations and afactual reduction in farm price guarantees are not easy decisions to reach at a time when the farm lobby is clearly still one of the strongest in all member-countries.

The Germans have played an unfortunate role in this reform debate by overextending and increasing their off-set payments to farmers, thereby forfeiting credibility in their negotiating position.

Chancellor Kohl and Finance Minister Stoltenberg set out a year ago to reduce subsidies and economise in the Common Market, given that economies were needed everywhere.

Little or nothing remains of these good intentions. Mrs Thatcher has been granted her billions in contribution refunds; Herr Kohl has been granted permission to spend billions of his own in farm subsidies.

The Fontainebleau agreement and the Brussels compromises will cost money. More money for Brussels is not an aim in itself. One is bound to ask how the money is to be spent and what use the breathing-space is supposed to be.

President Mitterrand had little time in Fontainebleau to outline his allegedly far-reaching plans for political union. Commissions were set up again, which is really no longer a joke.

It remains to be seen what good this will all do. The key issue of a European security policy, for instance, has evidently been hived off on to the Western European Union (the late and unlamented WEU, one is tempted to add).

That leaves practical cooperation projects in technology and armaments — and the French pledge to make less use than in the past of the EEC veto, combined with hopes that others will follow suit.

This all shows that what was accomplished at Fontainebleau may have been indispensable, but it wasn't in any way enough to ensure recovery of the EEC or integration of the Common Market as a factor in world affairs.

Since Fontainebleau the European Community has nonetheless no longer been paralysed. But it must still learn to walk again.

Ulrich Lüke

(Die Welt, 28 June 1984)

IN THIS ISSUE



Richard von Weizsäcker (left) is sworn in as President of the Federal Republic of Germany. At right is the Bundestag Speaker, Rainer Barzel. In the centre is the Bundestag administrator, Helmut Schellknecht. (Photo: dpa)

Weizsäcker is sworn in as Bonn President

Richard von Weizsäcker has been sworn in as Bonn President. There was not the slightest tinge of pathos or drama during the ceremony in which he took office in succession to Karl Carstens.

That was just as it should be in a 20th century parliamentary democracy.

The manner in which the change-over took place was in keeping with the fact that the head of state has obligations for a strictly limited period of time and very few rights.

The constitutional system in force since 1949 has proved satisfactory. Each of the past five Federal Presidents has reflected in his own way the condition of the country and its people.

Karl Carstens encountered considerable scepticism at the beginning of his five-year term but soon gained majority esteem by the straightforward pattern of his thinking and the success with which he sought to establish a democratic consensus.

The Federal Republic, as Bundestag Speaker Rainer Barzel put it, has all in all been lucky in its choice of heads of state.

Richard von Weizsäcker has taken over with an unprecedented fund of goodwill, having proved as Governing Mayor of Berlin he can think in terms of longer than from one day to the next and is capable of contributing toward reconcilation of seemingly irreconcilable opposites.

In these hard times he will badly need both skills as head of state in Bonn.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 2 July 1984)

Compromise to end strike

A compromise has been reached in the engineering workers dispute. Here, Georg Leber (centre), mediator, IG Metall union official Ernst Eisenmann (left) and the employers' Hans Peter Stihl, celebrate. See page 6. (Photo: dpa)

EUROPE

EEC: no money but plenty of ideas

A new Europe is in the making and will soon have its own flag and anthem, it was announced at the EEC summit in Fontainebleau, near Paris.

There are plans for EEC sports teams, for uniform textbooks to teach children in all 10 Common Market countries the same history lessons, and for European radio and TV programmes.

Red tape is to be slashed for trade in goods, duty-free allowances for coffee, alcohol and tobacco are to be increased, and cars are to be waved over the Franco-German border, with only spot checks by customs officers.

Third World countries will be sent European aid volunteers, not aid workers from individual EEC countries.

There is even a European passport. The French government spokesman, M. Vauzelle, showed the prototype to the Press. It is wine-red, compact and looks like a Soviet passport from a distance.

What wasn't sure at the summit was whether the European Community was going to have enough cash to keep going. The clash over Britain's rebate predominated at the two-day proceedings, which M. Mitterrand, the French host, had wanted at all costs to avoid.

But the atmosphere was much less tight-lipped than at previous summits in Brussels, Athens and Stuttgart. It was all smiles in the chateau ballroom Henri II had decorated with scenes of courtship 450 years ago.

Courtesy was the order of the day. There was no argument. Yet on the eve of the summit was as far removed as ever from being cured of the "English disease" that threatened to be the financial death of the EEC this autumn.

Financial collapse was averted. France's level-headed view that the Ten could manage with provisional arrangements if need be proved realistic, farsighted and so effective that the British made a number of concessions in the expert talks.

One idea first the Foreign Ministers, then the experts spent the night discussing was a lump sum rebate to Britain for 1984. Agreement in principle on the idea was soon reached, but not on the sum it was to involve.

"One billion ecus, or $800m, was finally agreed, the amount to be based in future on a complicated formula geared to Britain's VAT rate and EEC expenditure.

In such a financial jungle there was no hope of achieving a breakthrough the 270 million citizens of EEC countries could possibly see as a milestone in progress toward a common fatherland.

So M. Mitterrand as president of the European Council has emphasised measures that are inexpensive, easy to carry out and unlikely to give rise to more than objections on grounds of technicalities by member-governments.

"They have a psychological effect because they make Europeans feel they belong to an organism that is in the process of taking shape" is how a French Presidential adviser describes the philosophy that lies behind such projects.

An ad hoc committee consisting of representatives of the heads of state or government of the Ten will confer on how to put into practice measures designed to make the European Community a "Europe of citizens."

The committee will work along lines similar to those of the Messina committee which put the Treaty of Rome into practice a generation ago.

Farm subsidies are not how to build a European fatherland. If they were, Europe would have become a super-state over the past 20 years.

They directly affect only a small percentage of the population, and farmers alone are likely either to approve of or to baulk at the common agricultural policy.

European national feeling can evidently not be drummed up without the pomp and circumstance used for centuries by historic European fatherlands to make patriots' hearts beat faster.

As Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl sees it, President Mitterrand's proposals have not gone far enough in some respects.

The recommendations of the joint expert commission on simplifying frontier formalities have failed to live up to the Chancellor's expectations.

He would like to see not even spot checks made in future.

Holidaymakers are to be waved through by one border guard, not two, with details being worked out by representatives of the French and German governments.

Herr Kohl is also to raise with Austria and Switzerland the idea of simplifying reciprocal border formalities for tourists.

Given such exemplary European sentiments on the part of the EEC's largest net paymaster, Bonn could hardly be refused a solitary special request that added a German problem to the many British problems that beset the Common Market.

Bonn was keen to pay German farmers hit by the March decision to abolish border levies on agricultural produce DM3bn in compensation.

Libération, the Paris newspaper, referred to this move as "pacifying the



German farm lobby, which is most voluble in Bavaria."

President Mitterrand was prepared to "take into account this worry that has arisen in an extraordinary situation," to quote a Presidential spokesman.

At the same time M. Mitterrand, who hands over as EEC president to the Irish Prime Minister, Garret Fitzgerald, in July, was anxious not to jeopardise the agricultural agreement negotiated in spring.

In the middle of the critical stage of the Fontainebleau summit President Mitterrand was phoned by President Reagan, who congratulated him on the firm stand he had taken on his state visit to Moscow the previous week.

He had stated clear views on missiles, Afghanistan and the Sakharov case to bear out this fortitude, Mr Reagan told him.

The call was also in recognition of his six-month term, a successful term from the US viewpoint, at the helm of the EEC.

Not everyone felt President Mitterrand's initiatives in Moscow and at Fontainebleau were quite so fortunate. They included a French publicist who had accompanied him to the Soviet capital.

Napoleon, he recalled, had retreated from Moscow to Fontainebleau. In the courtyard of the chateau he had bidden his tearful Imperial guards farewell before setting out for Elba and exile.

Rudolph Chimelli
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 27 June 1984)

Talks about 30-year-old treaty reflect new trend in defence

Pierre Messmer once said European security policy as a topic was the cream cake served as dessert in European speeches: tasty but of no further importance.

Yet hardly a week passes without some comment on the subject being passed by someone.

Germany and France today discuss security and arms policy far more than would once have been possible.

The meeting between President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl at the last Franco-German summit in Rambouillet was a milestone on this new road.

Defence Ministers Manfred Wörner and Charles Hernu have set up expert commissions to consider joint arms projects (partly to counteract the overwhelming US lead) and a common strategy.

In mid-June the Foreign Ministers of the Western European Union (WEU) met in Paris to discuss a new role for an organisation that has survived in a dazed state for years.

Since 1954 the WEU has consisted of Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Benelux. It has the advantage over Nato of committing members to come automatically to each other's support in the event of attack.

The French government has been keen on reactivating the WEU for the past two years or so, so France could well fancy replacing via the WEU the military ties with Nato it broke off in 1966.

That marks the beginning of the many problems relating to the European attention paid lately to security policy. In the preamble to the 1963 Franco-German friendship treaty Bonn noted that Nato held absolute priority, and not even the closest cooperation with Paris on military matters is going to change this state of affairs.

There have been many well-meaning statements by Bonn on reactivating the WEU, but on closer scrutiny none of them amounts to anything substantial.

That is understandable. A new-look WEU is due to take shape at the organisation's 30th anniversary conference in Rome this October, but it is hard to say where it can consolidate Western Europe's security.

The many statements on the subject, up to and including plans for a joint European nuclear force, can hardly hide the fact that it is merely a bid to reactivate the EEC Six of old.

No-one yet knows which direction the new WEU may be heading in, but Whitehall is clearly less enthusiastic about the idea than the other six.

Nato has a Euro-Group, a Nuclear Planning Group, special groups in connection with missile talks and routine consultation arrangements. So it is hard to see for the time being what benefit could be derived from extra WEU bodies.

That may account for some of Bonn's reservations, no matter how highly Germany may rate cooperation with France.

The WEU recently decided in Paris to draw up an analysis of the threat from a potential enemy. Nato has long compiled similar reports, as has the Pentagon.

The risk of yet another European security bureaucracy taking shape and creating more confusion than clarity can certainly not be dismissed out of hand.

In December 1980 the WEU resolved in Paris to become a European pillar of the alliance. Similar plans were drawn up five years earlier and are now being voiced again.

The only progress so far made, and it is strictly symbolic, is that restrictions on arms manufacture by the Federal Republic of Germany are gradually being scrapped.

These restrictions are being waived right up to the strategic missile sector, but Bonn has no intentions of manufacturing long-range missiles when it cannot even afford urgently-needed new frigates for the Bundesmarine.

Europeans account for 75 per cent of Nato's Army manpower, 75 per cent of its tanks, 65 per cent of its air force and 60 per cent of its naval units.

These are substantial shares, but the United States is known to want Europe to supply much, much more, including such simple things as a 30-day stockpile of ammunition, DM45bn worth of supplies and an air defence belt worth the name.

The WEU is doubtless a fine discussion forum but money, when money is what is needed to defend Europe, is not going to be any the more readily available on its account.

It is hard to see how reactivating the WEU is going to ease the cash shortage.

It is not without a note of irony that this slowly expanding debate on European security coincides with bids in the US Senate to reduce American troop strength in Europe.

US Senators are not going to be misled by a new-look WEU designed to look after European "interests" in the alliance, to quote Hans-Dietrich Genscher, if the new WEU amounts to no more than M. Messmer's "cream cake."

Can it have more to offer? Probably not, for the time being. As matters stand the WEU could initially fulfill no other function than that of being a vehicle for security policy debate in Europe.

EEC Councils of Ministers do not discuss security policy because they have no treaty powers to do so as long as Ireland is not a member of Nato and Greece is only a half-hearted one.

European Parliament debates would achieve nothing, and the EEC Commission in Brussels will take good care not to get involved.

In the new-look WEU the old six-member EEC plus Britain could well review security policy with verve and authority. It would have the incomparable advantage of France, which is no longer a military member of Nato, being a full member of the WEU.

Article 4 of the WEU Treaty fully incorporates the WEU in Nato. A separ-

Continued on page 3

The German Tribune

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HOME AFFAIRS

Lambsdorff resigns as case proceeds

Count Otto Lambsdorff (FDP) has resigned as Minister of Economic Affairs. Proceedings are being taken against him in which he is accused of accepting bribes for party funds in return for tax concessions. He denies the charges but says that "the office...would suffer, and my own capability would be cast in doubt," as a result of the proceedings. Martin Bangemann, also FDP, is the new minister.

Martin Bangemann has emerged from the shadows of European politics to conduct the economic destiny of the country.

He was a Euro-MP until the European elections last month when his party, the Free Democrats, lost their representation because they failed to win five per cent of the votes.

He is a 49-year-old lawyer and the father of five children. His recent career has not been startling. In his own party he has been a controversial figure.

He cut a dashing figure when he entered the Baden-Württemberg FDP in 1963.

He swiftly became the ideas man for the progressive wing of the party.

Within six years he was elected deputy state party chairman and a member of the national executive.

He was not harmed by the fact that he had represented legally members of the Anti-parliamentary Opposition (APO) group.

Changing of the guard. Count Lambsdorff (left) and his successor as Minister of Economic Affairs, Martin Bangemann. (Photo: Sven Simon)

His rise continued. In 1972 he entered the Bundestag, and two years later he was the Baden-Württemberg state chairman, and shortly after FDP general secretary.

That lasted about a year — then came the break with Genscher. In the Baden-Württemberg state elections Bangemann did not want to commit himself to a coalition with the SPD.

There was outrage in the party which at the time did not see any alternative to the Bonn coalition of SPD/FDP. Under pressure from Genscher, Bangemann resigned. His popularity declined and three years later he gave up the FDP state party leadership.

He entered the European Parliament in 1975 and after the first direct elections in 1979 he became a committed European politician. As chairman of the West German Liberals he took over the leadership of the liberal MEPs in Strasbourg. It must be very bitter for him that he was not re-elected to Strasbourg.

If the FDP had attracted the vital five per cent of the vote Bangemann would not have been available to take on the Economic Affairs Ministry.

The FDP maintains over the critics that his experience in the European Parliament makes him suitable for the job.

Hamburg MEP Hans-Joachim Seeler (SPD) worked with Bangemann in the committee for the development of European Union. He said: "Diplomatically said I could not see any outstanding economic affairs qualifications during the time we worked together. But Bangemann is very intelligent, and he understands how to attract good people to work with him. For a minister that is important."

Bangemann, a mechanic's son, will be particularly interested in tradesmen and small to medium-sized companies. He will strive to solve their problems in a European context.

Tewe Pannier
(Hamburger Abendblatt, 28 June 1984)

The problems of replacing a good minister

Count Otto Lambsdorff, who has resigned as Minister of Economic Affairs, is a man of competence and personal courage who enjoys much respect.

The ministry has lost a leading figure who has managed to meet the compromise pressures exerted by the coalition and has sought to satisfy the interests of the various groups in society.

He has defended the principles of the free market against the political parties' need for popularity.

It will be obvious to his successor that it is not an easy gap to fill.

His sense of judgment, his attention to detail and, for a politician, his cautious approach to economic theorising will be missed.

He was often an uncomfortable partner, but always a reliable and honest one.

Lambsdorff will remain in the Bundestag and in his leading position in the FDP. The party can now effectively search for a Liberal economic philosophy.

The last convincing economic policy statement the FDP made was the Kiel Theses. They were Lambsdorff's work before he had to bow down to the compromise constraints imposed on an Economic Affairs Minister.

When he criticises economic policy as a member of parliament within the context of the Kiel Theses and the programme drawn up by the new FDP general secretary then there will be no peace around the economic affairs politician Count Otto Lambsdorff.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 28 June 1984)

Continued from page 2

te WEU military structure would be both superfluous and dangerous, given the possibility of the two systems blocking, not complementing each other.

There can be no disputing the statement by Alois Mertes, Minister of State at the Bonn Foreign Office, that: "Western security, including that of France and Germany, must remain firmly anchored in the Atlantic alliance."

That leaves the famous "European pillar" of the alliance, with its two small national nuclear stockpiles.

But as there can be no question of them being incorporated in any kind of "European nuclear force" and the stockpiles themselves could accomplish no more than a second strike in the nuclear inferno, the European Nato pillar would continue to be dependent on the US nuclear shield. So there would be no change in this respect.

As matters stand, the plethora of comments on European security policy testify to little more than European embarrassment at there being no such thing as a European security policy.

Setting up new organisations consumes energy. Would Europe not do better to invest this energy in Nato and in increasingly difficult relations between the United States and the Old World?

If a new-look WEU were to help matters, there would be no harm in revamping the organisation. But it is hard to say whether it would do much good.

Werner Kern
(Saarbrucker Zeitung, 27 June 1984)

Greens outflank an FDP in disarray

Ups and downs are a feature of the history of the Free Democrats. They take comfort from the fact that they have often been declared dead but they still live on.

But now the Greens have altered the political landscape. They have outflanked the Free Democrats and taken their place as the party that is able to create a majority in Hesse.

The Liberals are no longer represented in six state parliaments. The five-per cent hurdle is their guillotine. It chopped them out of the European Parliament in the elections last month.

The chances of the FDP getting five per cent in elections in the Saar and West Berlin next year are low.

It is also unlikely that it FDP will be returned to the North Rhine-Westphalia state parliament under the controversial FDP leader in the state, Jürgen Möllemann.

If support in the states falls away, sooner or later national support will also cave in.

There is a tragic touch to the decline of the Free Democratic Party to a liberal splinter party. It would be a perversion of history, however, to say that changing political sides in the coalition government was the beginning of the end.

It would be more accurate to say that the FDP got out of SPD "Babylonian captivity" too late.

The expulsion of the FDP from state parliaments began long before the change of coalition partners.

Disputes within the party after the change of sides, along with the SPD betrayal campaign, cost it votes and ultimately seats in state elections.

The FDP only got into the Hesse Assembly and the Bundestag because of conservative votes. Otherwise it would not have reached the five per cent level.

The party has not been revived in the 21 months it has been in coalition with the CDU/CSU. The rot has continued.

Decay has been helped by several factors: the party-donations affair; the blame heaped on party chairman Hans-Dietrich Genscher in the associated amnesty debacle; the legal proceedings against Count Lambsdorff in the same context; and the SPD campaign condemning the FDP for changing coalition partners. The most telling of these was the Genscher affair.

The party's claim to be the guardian of the constitutional state has been dented. The back-pedalling imposed on the party by its grass-roots support has only increased doubts about its reliability.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher has drawn his own consequences from the disaster of his resignation as party chairman, at first announced to take effect in 1986, then 1985 and now possibly sooner.

Count Lambsdorff was an important advocate of the change from the SPD to the CDU/CSU. His resignation means that the party has lost a vital political personality to identify with as well as an important minister in government.

Lambsdorff's action, worthy of respect, reveals the party's total poverty. Its source of political talent has dried up, and there is no convincing successor to Lambsdorff.

The new Minister of Economic Affairs, Martin Bangemann, failed to get elected to the European Parliament. He is just a fill-in — good for catchy phrases, effective rhetoric, an economic layman with no experience of government.

The Liberals are now represented in the Cabinet by a Deputy Chancellor and Foreign Minister whose star is on the wane, a completely colourless Justice Minister and an inexperienced Economic Affairs Minister.

They cannot afford to relinquish the Economic Affairs Ministry. For a middle-of-the-road party, the Ministry is of key importance. The FDP would come out of a conflict with the CSU the stronger. Voters who cross party lines could be mobilised. In 1980 as the "Stop Strauss" Party the FDP had its second best ever election result for the Bundestag.

A small party depends on having people with personality in the party. What other parties get from quantity a small party must get from quality. But this idea is not foremost in the FDP at the present. The chances of overcoming the present crisis of existence with new people and a revised party programme are slim.

Rainer Nahrendorf
(Handelsblatt, 28 June 1984)

■ GERMANY

Bonn mission in East Berlin shut to visitors

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Bonn's permanent mission in East Berlin has been closed to visitors until further notice.

This is because more and more East Germans are seeking refuge there in attempts to get to the West. And they're refusing to leave the premises.

The refugees are imposing a growing strain on relations between the two German states.

On the day before closure the 45 already on the premises were joined by a further dozen, including one who in despair poured petrol over himself and was stopped at the last minute by bystanders from setting light to himself.

The head of the mission, Hans Otto Bräutigam, then decided that the mission must be closed. He had previously tried to prevent people entering the mission by allowing them only into the hallway.

But several refused to leave even the hallway after being promised that Bonn



Hans Otto Bräutigam (Photo: dpa)

would include them in special efforts to arrange exit permits.

They spent the night sitting on the floor in the hallway, and as mission staff did not want to let them on to the premises and they refused to leave, they seem to have used buckets as a latrine.

Despite these conditions a further dozen arrived, including a woman and her six-year-old son. So Herr Bräutigam decided to let them in but to close the mission entirely to the public until further notice.

The young man who had tried to set himself alight was given medical treatment by a woman doctor brought over from West Berlin.

Bonn now expects East Berlin to solve the problem soon, given that the GDR claims it is interested in the mission staying open and in an improvement in ties with the Federal Republic, and bearing in mind that GDR leader Erich Honecker is due to visit the Federal Republic later this year. On the evening the mission was closed CDU/CSU Bonn MPs voiced criticism of the move. They felt it was wrong that access to the mission for Germans from the GDR had been restricted.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 28 June 1984)


Big Brother is never far away as . . . (Photo: AP)

Background

The Federal Republic of Germany and the GDR agreed by the terms of a 14 March 1974 protocol to set up "permanent missions" in East Berlin and Bonn.

Agreement on diplomatic missions was a result of the 21 December 1972 Basic Treaty on intra-German relations.

The head of Bonn's mission is accredited with the GDR state council chairman, the head of East Berlin's mission with the Federal President.

The GDR Foreign Ministry is responsible for Bonn's permanent mission in East Berlin and its staff of 90. The Chancellor's Office is responsible for its GDR counterpart in Bonn.

(Nordwest Zeitung, 27 June 1984)


. . . East Germans wait hopefully in hallway of Bonn's East Berlin mission. (Photo: dpa)

Wider issues mean Honecker visit is not cut and dried

Bonn government officials are talking as if a proposed visit by East German leader Erich Honecker is all tied up.

It isn't. All that can be said is that the leaders of both German states remain interested in a second intra-German summit this autumn.

The imponderables include whether the overall climate of world affairs might not make rain stop play.

The Soviet Union may have indicated it is keen not to let the East-West dialogue grind to a complete halt at the European and intra-German level in particular.

But if only to maintain the credibility of its bid to keep its distance from the United States, Bonn's main ally, Moscow is probably less keen on demonstrative protestations of cooperation or harmony between the two German governments.

This is particularly so inasmuch as it is hard to see how the Soviet Union, or the East as a whole, can stand to derive benefit from the results of intra-German negotiations.

Yet the Bulgarian leader, Todor Zhivkov, is to visit Bonn in September, and Moscow, or so it is argued in Bonn, is unlikely to allow one Soviet ally to maintain ties with West Germany and and forbid another, more important ally to do so.

Herr Honecker's visit is also bedevilled by considerable difficulties of a home-made, intra-German nature. The GDR's reluctance to make the slightest concession on the refugees at Bonn's mission in East Berlin can hardly be said to sound a note of promise.

The attitude taken by the GDR leaders, represented by East Berlin lawyer Wolfgang Vogel, who is a close personal acquaintance of Herr Honecker's, has given rise to suspicion in Bonn.

Herr Vogel said the refugee issue could well jeopardise intra-German relations as a whole.

Are East Berlin leaders starting to assemble pretexts for calling off the intra-German summit in view of the refugees and Bonn's self-evident refusal to hand them back to the GDR authorities?

Talks on an arts agreement are likewise making slower headway than had been hoped, strengthening the suspicions of sceptics in Bonn.

Yet confidence has again been engendered by the fresh gestures of readiness to cooperate made by the GDR leader noted by Philipp Jenninger, Minister of State at the Bonn Chancellor's Office.

If Herr Honecker and Chancellor Kohl are to meet and hold fruitful talks a satisfactory solution must first be found to the problem of the East German refugees at Bonn's East Berlin mission.

Herr Honecker must reach a decision soon and swallow his pride (and maybe that of other GDR leaders). Otherwise the pre-visit atmosphere will be intolerable.

The refugee saga confronts both governments with a dilemma. If the GDR refuses to guarantee the refugees permission to leave for the West at some future date, and if it insists on taking them to court, it will lay itself open to charges of inhumanity and run the risk of a deep freeze in intra-German relations.

Yet if East Berlin is generous, as it has been in the past, it will merely encourage others who are keen to get out to follow suit.

Neither side is particularly keen to see that happen, so on this point Bonn and East Berlin are agreed. They would like to dissuade GDR citizens from running this risk.

If, in contrast, Bonn goes too far in making allowances for East Berlin's position, it too may lay itself open to charges of inhumanity.

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

The sad position of the refugees and the repercussions their fate may have on intra-German affairs are strictly the GDR's responsibility for failing to allow its citizens freedom of movement.

Bonn too has run a number of risks in connection with Herr Honecker's proposed visit. The Federal government, beset by domestic and foreign policy and coalition tension and crises, has handled the preparations clumsily.

Bonn leaders have yet to devote their entire attention to the factual possibilities and atmospheric necessities the visit entails.

The Federal government cannot pretend to wash its hands in complete innocence with regard to dissatisfaction on East Berlin's part.

The ruling Christian Democrats in Bonn are also not in full agreement on the prospect of success or the extent to which the summit must achieve results or, in other words, whether it will serve any useful purpose.

Intra-German Affairs Minister Heinrich Windelen, worried that great expectations might be disappointed, says there must be results, otherwise there will be no point in the visit.

Herr Jenninger however has warned against setting sights too high and indirectly rebuked Herr Windelen by arguing that a guest cannot be charged admission.

The room to manoeuvre at Herr Honecker's disposal must not be overestimated no matter how keen he may be personally (and assuming he is), given the chill in East-West ties for which Moscow is partly to blame.

Much would have been achieved if he brought with him a reduction in the tire-

Continued on page 6

■ PERSPECTIVE

Luns bows out from Nato with a damp eye and a dry wit

There was only a momentary note of sadness about Joseph Luns' farewell ceremony as Nato secretary-general at the US naval academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Mr Luns showed a note of emotion as Admiral Wesley L. McDonald pinned to his lapel, to the accompaniment of a standing ovation, the highest award the US Navy makes to civilians.

But the retiring Nato secretary-general soon recovered his composure. He had been presented with the highest and most magnificent awards by all Nato countries, he said, but was sorry to say he had discovered that not one of them was pure gold.

An audience of 300, from 16 Nato countries, Sweden and India laughed heartily as he made his way back to his seat in the front row of the auditorium.

For Mr Luns, a former Dutch marine and his country's Foreign Minister from 1952 to 1971, it was a walk from the classroom to well-deserved retirement.

Delegates were at Annapolis, near Washington, for the Sea Link conference held every other year under the aegis of the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic.

They confer in acknowledgment of the simple truth that the countries of the West are members of an alliance of which the first and foremost link is the Atlantic.

Naval Power and Politics was the topic dealt with by academics, government officials, soldiers, journalists and shipowners for three days.

They were all worried lest the continentally-oriented Western Europeans in particular might wake up too late to the realisation how heavily dependent their security and prosperity depended on freedom of the seas.

The Americans are not alone in feeling it is strange, to say the least, that the Danes as a seafaring nation are seriously considering replacing two of their five submarines (that being all they have).

What makes it so strange is that they plan not to buy new submarines but to borrow them from the Federal Republic of Germany! Yet Denmark, with a per capita GNP of $10,780 last year was the fourth-richest country in the West, trailing only the United States, Sweden and Switzerland.

There was no overt criticism of the Danes, of course, but behind the scenes, on the periphery of the conference, there were many critical queries.

The Americans are finding it harder than they did to rightly interpret the confusion of views voiced in Europe, and that certainly applies to the Dutch vacillation since 1979 on whether or not to allow 48 cruise missiles to be deployed in Holland.

For a Senator from the mid-West or from Georgia debates of this kind are hardly likely to justify continued US commitments in and to Western Europe.

Even the fabric of Bonn's defence effort is beginning to wear thin. Was it not said, in many keenly noted speeches and articles, that Bonn would be increasing defence spending, not cutting it, now the Christian Democrats were back in power?

Why, then, was Bonn Defence Minister Manfred Wörner presenting such meagre defence budgets?

And why did Chancellor Kohl of all people send him to this Nato gathering empty-handed when higher spending on Nato infrastructure was at issue?

Unless infrastructure investment is increased US reinforcements cannot be sent to Europe in the event of a crisis, let alone war.

All these questions are crying out for an answer at a time when less reliance on nuclear weapons is generally felt desirable.

How, for that matter, about burden-sharing outside the North Atlantic Treaty area? Is the United States to defend shipping routes from the Persian Gulf on its own when America imports only four per cent of its oil from the area, as against Western Europe's 19 per cent, or 115 million tons?

It wasn't that anyone at the Annapolis conference insisted, either openly or on the quiet, that Western Europe must join the United States in establishing a military presence in the Gulf.

But it was hardly surprising that Washington is at least expecting further easement of America's burden in Central Europe.

The overall impression was by no means that America has grown tired of its allies in Western Europe. Nothing of the kind. But it is growing steadily less keen on the pace they are setting, which is usually geared to the speed of the slowest member of Nato.

Washington, it was again clear, feels it faces a worldwide Soviet challenge, and under President Reagan it is firmly resolved to take up the challenge.

It aims to do so all over the world: in the Persian Gulf as in Central and South America, in South-West Asia and the Pacific as in Europe.

Enlargement of the US Navy to 600 ships, including 15 aircraft carrier units, is a visible expression of this policy. Washington is convinced there is no other way in which to stand up to Moscow worldwide.

Bonn's Nato ambassador Hans-Georg Wieck in an impressive lecture on the historic roots of Russian, later Soviet naval policy made it clear how little inclination the Kremlin leaders have of knuckling under.

"The threat to Western interests on the world's seas will increase," he said. Wieck, a former German ambassador to Moscow, concluded that "we will have to pay more attention to this trend."

A threat? Is there really a risk of Moscow planning to come to grips with the West at sea? Not really.

There are no indications that the Soviet Union, which is reluctant to run risks, has any intention of clashing at sea with traditional naval powers such as America, Britain and France.

The danger is elsewhere. The Soviet Union, which as a world power in commodities is totally independent of sup-


Joseph Luns . . . taking a rest (Photo: dpa)

plies from overseas, is banking on the long-term political effect of its constant naval presence off the shores of all continents.

In the struggle for the allegiance of the non-industrialised world, a struggle in which the Soviet Union has met with scant success so far, the Red Fleet thus forms part of an offensive security policy.

At the same time the Soviet navy is a potential trouble-maker in that in the event of a crisis, let alone conflict, the countries of Western Europe and North America, who are in every respect dependent on the Atlantic as a sea link, could be hit hard, and well clear of the Soviet Union.

Admiral McDonald said he lacked 50 per cent of the armed forces he needed to ensure that sea routes stayed open to shipping in the event of an emergency.

There is no reason to panic and every reaon for adopting level-headed policies. It was to the credit of the political instinct of the organisers that this message was delivered by competent authorities.

General Andrew Goodpaster, Saceur from 1969 to 1974, called for a strategy of "deterrence, defence and detente" based on the simple truth that detente without a groundwork of credible defence capability is a "delusion."

John Halstead, a former Canadian ambassador in Bonn, and later to Nato, stood up to America's perceptible impatience with its allies by convincingly pointing out that North America and Western Europe can only jointly keep the peace and ensure economic and technological progress.

Over 70 per cent of US investment abroad was in Atlantic countries, he said, and over half in Western Europe.

Western Europe is also a profitable market for finished goods made in the United States, whereas in trade with Japan the United States was over $15bn in the red in 1982.

Yet no-one ought to feel a continued alliance between America and Western Europe was natural. That was the other main message at the 1984 Sea Link congress.

The Europeans must at long last find ways and means of bringing influence to bear, with one voice, on US policy in world affairs if they are to make headway with, say, the dialogue with Moscow.

That alone will succeed in keeping alive in America the realisation that the United States will be unable in the foreseeable future to play its part as a world power without Western Europe — not even with a brightly-polished superpower US Navy.

Walther Stützle

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 23 June 1984)

■ INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Engineers, employers, hammer out deal in all-night session

Engineering workers and employers have reached agreement on ending the seven-week strike that has made about 400,000 workers idle and brought most motor manufacturing assembly lines to a halt. Aim of the strike was to reduce the working week from 40 to 35 hours. The deal, still subject to a vote by IG Metall members, involves a 38.5-hour week from April 1 next year, a pay rise of 3.3 per cent this July, and a DM250 payment to all workers affected by the strike. Agreement was reached after an all-night bargaining session under the mediation of Georg Leber, a former union official who was once an SPD cabinet minister.

The parties to the dispute had little option but to accept Georg Leber's proposals. The side that rejected them would have had to carry the responsibility of setting in gear an indefinite battle of attrition.

The harm would not have been just economic. The social damage would have lasted for years.

In the end there would have been total defeat of one side or the other, thus damaging the balance of power in the industrial relations structure.

The word "partners" in wage negotiations would no longer have had any meaning and class-war words would have filled the air.

No one wants a war to the bitter end, and no one can afford it, who is interested in reducing unemployment.

Leber himself concedes that the acceptance of his compromise calls for pluck. He could just as well have said that a "no" pre-supposes considerable courage, which could be interpreted to mean foolhardiness.

It would be hard to think of a more stylish compromise for ending the dispute than Leber's swift proposals.

This does not mean that skilful wage experts cannot find snags. Leber expects something from both sides.

IG Metall got the reduction in the working week it wanted. Leber's compromise is unequivocal about this. The 40-hour week is to disappear from the basic wage agreement.

The employers have to make this sacrifice although they have been against any proposal for a reduction in work time.

But the renunciation of the symbolic "40" was made easier for employers, for this was linked to an acceptance of job grading for time worked so that the reduced working week would be introduced depending on the necessities of individual companies. The magic words were "making things flexible" that Leber took over from the employers and grafted into his plan.

The employers' main point was, and still is, that the operating time for machinery should not be curtailed. This was prevented by separating the idea of individual work time from company work time.

Getting rid of the 40-hour week is to be financed in such a way that competitiveness on international markets should not be put at risk.

The costs for Leber's plan are within the scope of the employers' offer.

There is a hidden sweetie for IG Metall in the compromise: the time worked must be negotiated by individual companies within the context of the employment agreement between the workers council and the employers.

This means that the flexibility so dear to the employers' hearts can only be agreed upon in companies that have an active workers council.

Companies that operate without a workers council because of their size have been left out. They must abide by the reduced work time arrangement without having the benefit of being able to grade the time worked depending on the job.

The question must arise if these companies will not be interested in negotiating in future with IG Metall. Would that not be a long-term improvement of the union's position in the economy?

It can be pre-supposed that Leber, a former building workers union leader, IG Bau, had this in mind when he drew up his plan. On the other hand he demanded something from IG Metall. The proposed wage increases are modest.

There is no talk of a 35-hour week, although it has not been excluded, for Leber's proposals run until 1986.

Placing authority in the hands of the workers council does not strengthen the union's centre, that many unionists certainly did not like. And there will be a pay reduction for those groups who work less than the 38.5 hours per week.

There is no victor and no vanquished in Leber's proposals. Nevertheless there are points that need clarification.

What happens when management and workers council cannot agree on the application of reduced work time in various groups of workers? What happens when the workers council blocks the time worked according to job grading?

Leber may have found a solution of striking simplicity, but the detailed work, that now has to begin, will decide if he really has made wage negotiations history.

Work time in the metal and engineering industries as a whole is to be shortened by one and a half hours as from 1 April next year. The proposal was worked out by Leber and Professor Bernd Rüthers, who was not a member of the negotiating panel.

The new work week for wage negotiations will be on the basis of 38.5 hours worked. The actual time worked in a company, based on the 38.5 hours of the basic wage, will be a matter for the employment agreement between workers council and employers. This work time cannot exceed 40 hours and not drop below 37 hours. The altered work time will remain in force until 30 September 1986.

To preserve wage levels for the reduced work week at the 38.5 hours level a compensatory 3.9 per cent increase will be paid. Employees whose employment agreement means they work less than 38.5 hours, will get an additional compensatory payment so that their pay is at the same level as for the 38.5 hour working week. Compensatory pay will be reduced by 25 per cent from 1 April 1986 in pay rises.

The arbitrators have proposed that as from 1 July there should be a 3.3 per cent increase in wages and salaries.

In addition all workers involved in the strike, either directly, or locked-out or put off work because of the effects of the strike, are to receive a one-off payment of DM250.

A two per cent pay increase will be applied as from 1 April, 1985. This wage agreement will be valid for twelve months.

Joachim Worthmann

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 27 June 1984)

Continued from page 4

some exchange requirement for GDR pensioners and an arts agreement ready to sign.

Many Christian Democrats still evidently find it hard to look on such summits as meaningful in themselves, especially in a tense situation.

The effect of Herr Windelen publicly purporting to wonder whether the GDR leader's visit ought not to be postponed again if there is no guarantee of results could well be disastrous.

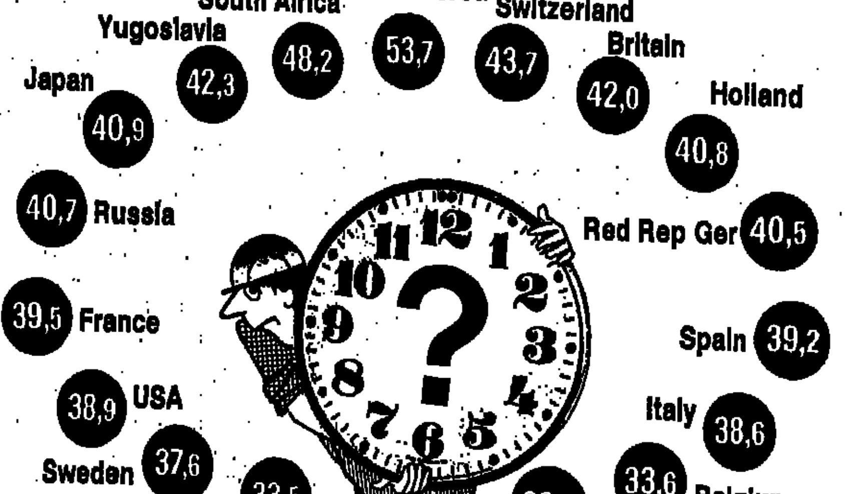
East Berlin leaders would are unenthusiastic about the visit in the first place could easily take that to be an indirect cancellation.

Postponements of summit meetings on grounds of uncertainty or displeasure have a most unpleasant intra-German tradition. Bonn must do all it can to ensure there is no repetition.

Every delay is a missed opportunity, particularly for people in Germany.

Claus Wettermann

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 26 June 1984)



Who strikes the most?

Days lost per 1,000 workers through strikes and lockouts (Average 1970-1982)

Italy 1403 · Britain 512 · USA 443 · Belgium* 250 · France 184 · Sweden 139 · Japan* 107 · FedRepGer · Holland 42 · Switz* 2 · Austria* 9 · 83

Globus 5118 · * 1970 - 1981

Mediator finds this nut too tough to crack

CDU politician Kurt Biedenkopf has failed in his attempt to mediate in the printing industry dispute. His rejected plan proposed a stage-by-stage reduction in hours worked. The 40-hour week would stay, but hours would be reduced through days off. Biedenkopf proposed seven possibilities. In his negotiating example five extra days off a year would be given, resulting in an 39-hour week equivalent. Ten free days would have worked out at a 38-hour week. The 35-hour week, which is what the union wants, was to be achieved by 27.5 days off a year. At each annual wage negotiation up to 1988 an additional seven to ten days off would be included in the wage agreement.

Employers and union remain a long way apart in the printing industry dispute. The civil service has announced wildcat strikes for the autumn.

What the printing employers have done, in fact, is to box Kurt Biedenkopf's ears. They believed that they could do this because his intervention in the dispute was not as an arbitrator, but only as "an attempt to mediate".

Neither side was prepared to compromise. Seldom has a man prepared to do all to bring disputing parties together been so repudiated as Biedenkopf in this conflict.

The employers said in a statement that his proposals "were not economically viable". This was a tough statement to hurl at Biedenkopf, a CDU politician.

The main point of the reproach was that the employers believed he was too inclined towards the union.

Biedenkopf would certainly not now raise a finger if the two sides again decide they want outside help to end the dispute.

By their brusque rejection of Biedenkopf's proposals the employers have spared the union from the necessity of saying "no", because no plan for reducing the working week is in sight. The dispute continues.

The employers demand that the union should come down a further peg. But the union sticks by its demands for a new wage structure in the industry, improved wages, more co-determination for the workers councils and protection against rationalisation measures.

The union played for high stakes; now the employers are playing it cool.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 22 June 1984)

■ THE ECONOMY

Bundesbank's qualified optimism

The Bundesbank is optimistic about the economy despite the fall in production in the second quarter due to the engineering and printing strikes.

But it adds a warning that the strike must end soon with an economically acceptable compromise.

The Bundesbank warns in its monthly report that to reduce the working week for the same pay as before would mean, in the short term, basic changes in production.

In view of the importance of the questions raised by the strike it was not surprising that manufacturers and consumers were more cautious in giving information about their position than at the beginning of the year.

The upward swing in demand and production that began so promisingly at the beginning of the year had faltered and much of the optimism had gone.

After considerable stockpiling at the beginning of the year things had got back to normal. Demand in the building industry had slackened. The connection with the labour dispute was obvious.

The Bundesbank believes that, as a result of the strike, lock-outs and production halts, in the metalworking industry alone close to eight million work days have been lost. This is estimated to represent a loss of about three billion deutschmarks or three percent of the average net production of the processing industries in May and June.

Workers in the metalworking industry have lost in pay and salaries about DM1.5 billion "excluding strike pay etc".

The decline of total production in the second quarter does not mean the end of the upward economic trend, the Bank reassuringly said.

The break in the upward swing is founded in the main in an interruption in the total supply of goods and not in a general lack of demand.

To a certain degree losses can be compensated for, pre-supposing that the strike ends soon and that the compromise is economically viable.

This could create favourable conditions in which price development will still remain low. Consumer prices have for months registered seasonal increases and the annual rate is reckoned to be under two percent. This means that the aim of price stability is closer than expected. The considerable increases in pay have ensured a real increase in purchasing power.

The Bundesbank also spoke favourably of the progress in funding the budget. That took much stress off credit markets.

Long-term funding aims had not been achieved. If the path of public finances were followed through, more room for manoeuvre would be available to make it possible to introduce tax reductions smoothly.

The Bundesbank expects substantial support for the business outlook from abroad.

It says there is an adequate surplus of money so that a powerful increase in production is possible.

Despite the escalation of interest rates in the USA the deutschmark has not lost its attraction internationally.

This reflected a positive assessment of the deutschmark because of its stability.

Claus Dertinger

(Die Welt, 27 June 1984)

Winds of fortune 1984

Estimated growth (%)

USA	+6%
Japan	4 3/4
Sweden	3 1/4
Red Rep Ger	3
Switz.	2 3/4
Denmark	2 3/4
Britain	2 1/2
Italy	2 1/4
Austria	2
Belgium	1 1/2
Holland	1 1/2
France	1 1/4

Source: OECD · © Globus 5169

Income tax reforms designed to ease load on families

Bremer Nachrichten

Income tax reforms approved by the government in Bonn can only be financed by increasing other taxes, says Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg.

The tax packet will be introduced in two stages, in 1986 and 1988, and the first phase will give much relief to families with children.

The compromise worked out by the coalition partners involves in all DM20.2 billion.

Stoltenberg said that no further proposals for tax relief were envisaged for this legislative period that ends in 1987.

He added that no other adjustment measures were being considered — increases of other taxes — to cover decreases in wages and income taxes.

Stoltenberg said that the measures to be introduced were "the largest tax cuts to be made since the establishment of the Federal Republic."

He gave two examples. He said that a working man with two children in his family earning on average in a year DM43,000 (a taxable income of DM34,000), calculated at 1988 levels would have a tax saving through the measures proposed of DM700 to DM750 per year, or monthly about M60.

This relief would be in full operation by 1988.

A single person with the same pay or income would get DM500 per year in tax relief, but this would not come into full operaton until 1988. In 1986 it would only be DM150, or DM12.50 per month.

The time plan for specific tax reliefs is as follows, so far as definite dates have been fixed:

- In 1986 the child allowance will be increased from the present DM432 to DM2,400 which will include all the various "supplements for children", dependent on the number of children in the family as well as welfare costs: DM5,2 billion. 7— Those with low incomes for whom this allowance is not enough a child supplement of DM44 per month is proposed.
- Tax reform will be in two stages — translated into reality in 1986 and 1988 with tax relief of DM11 billion in 1986. According to a statement from the Finance Minister this relief will be increased by DM12 to DM13 billion up to 1988. On 1 January 1988 the new tax scale will be in operation that will bring total tax relief of between two to three billion deutschmarks.

The most important aspect of the new scale is an increase in the basic tax free allowance by DM300. It is at present DM4,212.

In the preparatory work on tax reform Finance Minister Stoltenberg favoured the "T1" model, that meant a drop in tax collected of DM24 to DM25 billion. The CDU/CSU governed federal states have stated that they can bear DM17 billion up to 1988 without compensation via increased taxation or improved tax conditions.

The coalition compromise is above this limit, but below the Finance Minister's original idea.

This, the Finance Minister said, made it necessary to make calculations for a re-newed tax scale "T 1" with "a lower relief rate."

Gerhard Weck

(Bremer Nachrichten, 25 June 1984)

A drop in real growth is predicted

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

The Kiel Institute for International Economic Affairs predicts that West Germany's real growth this year will be 2.5 per cent and 2 per cent next year. Last year's rate was 1.3 per cent.

It predicts growth of 4 per cent for the industrialised countries this year, although during the year the rate would probably slow.

In the latest of its regular reports, the institute said world trade would tail off. It should grow 6 per cent this year but drop to 3 per cent next year.

This year economic development would lose some of its dynamism. Growth in Europe, already sluggish, would stop entirely.

But the upswing in Japan would be continue.

The institute said that in many countries hindrances for an economic upswing persisted, Subsidies were being used in Western Europe in place of scarce and expensive capital, and outdated economic structures and patterns were being preserved.

High interest rates were making loans expensive for investment.

Only in the US were taxes substantially reduced, wages adjusted to market conditions and regulations lifted, which explained why despite high interest rates the upswing in the United States was so marked.

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 26 June 1984)

Government subsidies on home building should be gradually reduced to prevent a glut and a subsequent crisis in real estate, says a pressure group.

It says housing should be more subject to the laws of supply and demand and the existing housing stock should be more efficiently allocated.

Home-building associations should get no more tax relief and legislation controlling tenants should be liberalised, it says.

These are among the proposals put forward by a group of seven academics known as the Kronberger Kreis, who also suggest that more people should be urged to become owner occupiers.

In other words families should buy the flats in which they live instead of moving out and building family homes.

Forcing the pace in the building industry, as has been done up to now, concealed the danger that real estate, financed with great sacrifice, subsequently could depreciate.

Too many homes being built, government told

The liberal economists took the view that what has been regarded as a shortage of living accommodation was in fact only a distortion of resources already available.

They fear that too much real estate would become a bad investment caused by bad state subsidisies and taxation policies.

This capital, wrongly invested, could have been put to better use in industry. "We need more factories not more homes."

The panel regarded as "pure waste" the promotion of publicly assisted house-building. The better solution would be to direct payment of a public housing allowance to the needy.

Giving more tax concessions to joint home-building associations would be "obsolete". It would lead to a concentration of property ownership and not to private ownership.

The panel recommended that new leases between the landlord and tenant should be de-regulated. Liberal renting legislation should apply to public assisted housing when the owner has paid off the public building loan.

House ownership should be taxed as an investment. Rents should take into consideration interest rates and other charges.

The panel suggests that when real estate is sold there should be a capital gains tax of 25 percent — at present this is tax-free.

Land purchase tax on the other hand should be discontinued.

The Housing Minister said the proposals were basically helpful, but he considered many recommendations too abrupt and extensive.

Peter Gillies

(Die Welt, 20 June 1984)

■ COMMUNICATIONS

Digital technology tops list in increased spending on telecommunications



The clash over countrywide cable TV is fast becoming a holy war. The Federal Audit Office has accused the Posts and Telecommunications Minister, Christian Schwarz-Schilling, of unrealistic cost accounting and over-optimistic forecasts.

And the dispute continues on whether copper or optical cable should be laid.

But at the Telematica trade fair in Stuttgart, the pressure was off the minister. He visibly relished the applause that greeted his opening address.

Herr Schwarz-Schilling was able to present ideas for expanding telecom infrastructure. The only significant criticism these are getting is from trade unions, worried they might mean even higher unemployment.

The repercussions for office workers are unforeseeable and could well include a spate of rationalisation such as has accompanied the introduction of robots in industry.

How the Bundespost views the telecom future could be seen at the largest and busiest stand in Stuttgart, where video conferences were held between one city and another and the same telephone line was used to relay photocopies in seconds, to transmit teleprinter messages and to exchange computer data.

The Bundespost's target is a fully integrated telecom system as part of which all subscribers can use all services via a single cable link.

At present the Bundespost offers its services in a number of separate networks. The telephone network, with 24 million subscribers and about 30 million telephones, is largely independent of the integrated text and data network linking 265,000 subscribers by teleprinter and data transmission services.

This duplication means extra cost of development, technology and operation, and connection costs on both sides are fairly high.

The first step in the direction of an integrated network is being taken now the Bundespost is converting telephone exchanges from analog to digital technology, which not only increases capacity and speed; it also makes new services possible.

All signals are converted into figures and reconverted at the other end, improving the capacity, quality and speed of transmission.

This year the Bundespost is to invest about DM20m in the new technology, increasing to DM400m in 1986 and DM1.5bn in 1989, according to Helmut Schön, head of telecom at the Ministry.

From 1990 the Bundespost will install nothing but digital technology for both local and long-distance calls. Conversion to digital technology will be completed by 2020 at the latest.

It looks like good business ahead for industry, so it is hardly surprising the entire German telecom industry has submitted tenders for contracts.

Unlike on past occasions, the Post Office has not opted for a uniform system. It has agreed to use both the Siemens and the Standard Elektrik Lorenz (SEL) systems.

They can be interlinked without much difficulty. Fourteen new long-distance exchanges are to be built next year: seven by Siemens, five by SEL and one each by DeTeWe in West Berlin and TN, a Bosch subsidiary, in Frankfurt.

The order is reversed for local exchanges, most of which are to be built by SEL. All are major contracts. The new trunk exchange in Stuttgart is to cost DM18m, the international exchange DM19m. Both contracts have gone to SEL.

In opting for two competing systems the Bundespost has been prepared to pay more for training, warehousing and maintenance.

Herr Schön says this extra cost should be offset by competition between manufacturers, which will lead to lower prices. But export promotion doubtless also plays a part.

German manufacturers feel they should do well in export markets, but this presupposes their systems are tried and trusted at home.

Digitalisation of exchanges and the subsequent digitalisation of links with subscribers are to lead by 1988 to what the Bundespost calls an integrated service digital network (ISDN).

Pilot projects are to be launched in 1986 in Stuttgart and Mannheim, with 400 subscribers each.

Subscribers will then have a single socket and a single number for all telecom services: telephone, teletex, teleprinter and data transmission.

Everything will work much faster, we are promised. Teletex pages will be made up faster, for instance, the Minister said in Stuttgart.

The Bundespost stands to benefit in terms of rationalisation regardless whether it gains new subscribers. Existing copper cables (optical cable is not to be introduced until a much later stage) can handle twice the amount of digitalised signals, says Herr Schön.

He says there will be no extra expense inasmuch as the conversion to digital technology is inevitable, given the expected growth in demand.

Extra investment will not be necessary until 1990, by which time the Bundespost expects the number of telephone subscribers to level out, and this extra will be warranted inasmuch as digital technology is less expensive than analog.

For the electronics industry the ISDN network is interesting not just on account of the exchanges that need building. New subscriber equipment will be the big business.

"Manufacturers are working flat out at development," says Joachim Schrader of Siemens, who expects there to be a new generation of consumer devices combining several functions and making use of the advantages of an integrated network.

But several problems still need solving before this stage is reached. International standards for equipment have yet to be agreed on. The ITU in Geneva hasbeen working on this problem for four years.

Herr Schrader is hoping a decision will be reached at the end of this year but he fears standardisation (in his view the secret of German manufacturers' success in world markets) may fail.

At the instigation of former Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff the Bundespost is to have nothing to do with subscriber equipment, which could result in duplication and incompatibility (problems that beset computers and the video market).

The Bundespost is still firmly convinced it will come right. By 1995 it is confident there will be between four and five million ISDN subscribers.

Initially, commercial customers will predominate. In the private sector the Bundespost feels growth is only to be expected in teletex for the time being.

A larger number of private subscribers to the integrated service is not expected until optical cables make videophones feasible.

Rental charges will be a crucial factor, and in Stuttgart the Minister had this to say: "We will be boosting the incentive to switch to ISDN by pegging charges to telephone rates."

Higher speed and line capacity will even cut costs, says Wolfgang Peters of SEL, while Herr Schön has visions of a monthly rental of DM40, which is what a two-phone family already pays.

Unit charges will be related to time and distance, as for the telephone. Swifter transmission would thus make teleprinter, telefax and data transmission cheaper than they are at present.

It remains to be seen whether these conjectures are borne out by the facts. Costs can be higher than expected, as many households who decided to try cable TV have found to their chagrin.

And the Federal Audit Office has only just pointed out that Bundespost expectations can at times be a little too optimistic.

Wolfgang Gillmann

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 23 June 1984)

Bickering goes on over TV, radio policies

Baden-Württemberg Premier Lothar Späth told delegates to the cable and satellite TV conference at the Telematica trade fair in Stuttgart it was the early bird that got the worm.

He even quoted Bismarck, who over 120 years ago said: "A statesman must see events coming and prepare accordingly. If he fails to do so he will usually be too late when he finally makes a move."

His "colleague" Bismarck, who was Prime Minister of Prussia at the time, might be surprised that this home truth has failed to have the required effect.

How else, worried media experts wondered, could one account for *Land* governments continuing to argue whether and how the range of radio and TV programmes ought to be extended?

Technology, they said, had long reduced political leeway to a handful of key issues.

One was whether only foreign commercial operators were to work the West German market or political and economic provision was to be made in time for commercial radio and TV stations in this country.

The new media debate has been conducted at length and in detail since a government report was issued eight years ago, clearly showing that technological developments can only be kept in check by those who make sure they are in the vanguard.

By constantly lagging behind the course of events greater clarity is next to never established, and it certainly restricts political leeway.

The ball is very much in the media policymakers' court, as experience with the first two German pilot projects, cable TV in Ludwigshafen and Munich, were launched in January.

Neither Claus Detjen of the Ludwigshafen venture nor Rudolf Mühlfenzel of the Munich project was able to give any clear indication in Stuttgart of either demand or the prospects of breaking even. They have not been in cable TV long enough to say.

All they were sure of was that their pilot projects, both of which were far too small, did not have much time left in which to experiment.

Since the Ariane launcher rocket put the ECS comsat into orbit last year, if not earlier, British, French, American, Luxembourg and Swiss operators have been on standby to serve the German market.

Four of the nine programmes the satellite is equipped to broadcast to Western Europe are already in operation.

They are the Sky Channel, run by Britain's Rupert Murdoch, the Australian proprietor of News Ltd, the French fifth channel, Westbeam (purportedly a German service) and the first European pay TV programme, broadcast by a Swiss operator.

Westbeam is produced by a private consortium under the supervision of the Ludwigshafen corporation.

Most European countries seem to have gradually girded their loins for the new media, starting with local radio since the early 1970s.

In Germany the dams suddenly seem to be bursting all at once, providing a viewing public used to homoeopathically minute doses of radio and TV with an inundation of new programmes.

Irrespective of cable TV pilot projects and the TV satellite ready to broadcast, German politicians are still engaged in a debate on fundamentals. Mühlfenzel for one is afraid it might lead to a "media policy mystery tour."

Media policy has been without perspective for years, it was constantly argued at Telematica, with the result that the further course of events and trends in media facilities available are determined by technology alone.

"A ghetto of ambitious technical symposiums has arisen," says Gerhard Näher of a Hamburg company, which is why what is technically feasible in Germany is at times far removed from demand.

"Whatever may be the ideal way of using the electronic media," says Pierre Meyrat of Rediffusion, the Swiss satellite TV company, with the Federal Republic in mind, "accrued structures can not without damage be turned upside down overnight."

Frank A. Linden

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 22 June 1984)

■ THE ARTS

Attempts to stop homosexual exhibition fail



Those were the days. The Eldorado homosexual cabaret in Berlin in 1929. (Photo: Catalogue)

An exhibition about homosexuality in Berlin has drawn howls of protest from various quarters.

But Rolf Both, director of the Berlin Museum, has stood firm. The exhibition goes on.

It is called *Eldorado — Homosexual Men and Women in Berlin 1850-1950, Everyday Life and Culture.*

Eldorado was the name of a renowned homosexual bar and cabaret in Berlin before the war.

It would be interesting to be able to see an exhibition of the threatening and protesting letters that flooded in when word of the exhibition got around.

But Herr Both refuses to make public what is the most interesting and certainly the most topical aspect of the whole project.

About thirty people in the Society of Friends of the Berlin Museum withdrew their membership.

Some West Berlin politicians, including the former mayor, Richard von Weizsäcker, who is now the President of West Germany, were bombarded with letters demanding that the exhibition be halted. But Rolf Both refused to budge.

The exhibition and the informative catalogue is an attempt to throw light on "the neglected and repressed history of a disadvantaged and legally stigmatised group."

The exhibition was inspired by a group of homosexual men, closely linked to the cultural life of the city and who still are. A group of lesbians, equally ostracised, joined them.

Their way of life, problems, aims and cultural significance for the city is documented in pictures, photographs and magazines such as 5—Garconne and *Die Freundin.*

They did not particularly want solidarity with the homosexual men. They insisted that the catalogue should not include portrayals of erotic scenes involving women by Christian Schad, Otto Schoff, Rudolf Schlichter and Erich Godal.

The lesbians maintained that these were male artists and that their work "stimulated the voyeuristic instincts of male viewers."

The two groups only agreed about one aspect of the project's aims: to try and reach a point where homosexuality is no longer regarded as something *spectacular like a security risk.*

Hopes for this success are not unfounded. Large crowds are rolling in.

Vistors are dipping deeply into the accompanying commentaries and potted biographies.

Berlin's cultural life, since the days of Frederick the Great has been far more influenced by "those who are different" than a cultural history set on suppression would have. Anyone interested in the theatre knows all about Gustav Gründgens. But does everyone know about the popular cabaret singer Claire Waldorff and August Wilhelm Iffland, who gave his name to the ring-road, which still honours the great actor.

Does any history of art indicate that the Greece-besotted painter Hans von Marées and sculptor Adolf von Hildebrand, also intoxicated with the Hellenic spirit, shared nothing more than a romantic studio together?

Does anyone immersed in literature really know what bound Klaus Mann, solemn Stefan Zweig and the communist writer Ludwig Renn, publisher of *Linkskurve,* together riding high over all ideological differences?

In which group, stigmatised or not, does Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau, creator of the film *Noferatu* conveniently fit?

What do you do about Käthe Kollwitz who uninhibitedly let it be known that she was prepared to love not only men but also women?

And how is it explained that, along with Gründgens, the tennis champion Gottfried von Cramm and Max Lorenz, the renowned heldentenor of Berlin's Deutsches Staatsoper survived the Nazis purge of prominent homosexuals who disappeared into concentration camps and death with the pink triangle on their arms, the Nazis sign of their homosexuality?

The exhibition poses more questions than it answers, but it would be absurd to reproach the exhibition for that.

In addition the exhibition documents the life and influence of Johann Ludwig Casper and Karl Heinz Ulrich who, in the nineteenth century fought to have homosexuality as a criminal offence expunged from the Statute Book.

Magnus Hirschfeld continued their work in his Institute for Sexology, founded in 1919. Until it was destroyed in 1933 it made Berlin a world centre of research into sex.

That is no longer true of West Berlin, but West Berlin is still a city in which the homosexual sub-culture, rich in ideas, goes its way, as in other West German cities. But it is the only city where it would be dared to stage such a striking exhibition with state approval and promotion.

Many visitors leave the palace on Lindenstrasse more thoughtful than when they arrived. Nothing more positive can be said of the influence of the exhibition.

Hellmut Kotschenreuther

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 7 June 1984)

Three different tastes of film opera reveal its potential

Hanover's first opera film festival in the Hochhaus Cinema will begin with Wagner's *Tannhäuser,* Puccini's *Tosca* and Verdi's *Otello.*

These three films, all very different from one another, give some idea of the new art form "film opera".

Both aspects of the film, as a medium for documentation and as an art form are included in these films.

The *Tannhäuser* film represents the first of these aspects. It documents the splendid, and in its time spectacular, Götz Friedrich production, conducted by Sir Colin Davis with Gwyneth Jones as Venus and Elisabeth, Spas Wenkoff as Tannhäuser, Bernd Weikl as Wolfram and Hans Sotin as Landgraf.

The fact that this production, stirring and now and then shocking, that went to the edge, visually and musically, of justifiable interpretation, has been filmed is in itself extraordinary.

The film has more to offer through. Because the medium makes it necessary to select from the variety of action on stage it concentrates on the vital features of Götz Friedrich's production with the result that his intention's are clarified, more so perhaps than in the actual performance.

The *Otello* film is of the same order, but with Herbert von Karajan not only conducting but acting as film producer.

Whatever is thought of Karajan's multi-media ambitions, in this instance there was complete unity in the ensemble. Karajan, following Verdi's score meticulously, successfully produces music theatre of the very highest artistic order. Music and action in this *Otello* are welded into a superb unity.

The singing is impressive with Jon Vickers as Otello, Mirella Freni as Desdemona and Peter Glossop as Iago. The camera work followed the music perfectly.

As an example of opera film this *Otello* is a feast for eye and ear, whether one agrees with Karajan's interpretation of Verdi or not.

The beauty and perfection of Karajan's film is obvious when it is compared with the *Tosca* film by Gianfranco de Bosio.

De Bosio filmed his *Tosca* on location and no one can complain about that. But there are too many details in the opera production. Tosca travels to the Castel Sant' Angelo in a coach. Sheep and shepherds hustle about at the foot of the Castello.

The direction and camera work are course and dreary. And the same goes for the acting and singing of Raina Kabaivanska, Placido Domingo and Sherrill Milnes and the musical direction of Bruno Bartoletti.

What is left is Puccini's opera in a spectacular production with three international singers who have not done their reputation much good.

Hugo Thielen

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 18 June 1984)

Fireworks man completes his childhood

A giant fireworks spectacular is to be held in open land in front of the Reichstag in West Berlin. About 11 tons of fireworks will be used, including 4,000 specially designed rockets.

The idea belongs to Vienna's multi-talented André Heller, chanson singer, man of literature, actor, film-maker and ex-circus director.

He says the show is a trace of his childhood, when the fireworks he watched were too mild.

As soon as the sun goes down on 7 July the Platz der Republik in front of the Reichstag building will be turned by Heller and a team of 83 into a "fireworks theatre with the crash of clouds".

The optical spectacular is the main attraction of "Summer night's dream 1984", the West Berlin Senate's plan for July and August to fill the summer's cultural gap.

It is believed that the spectacle, designed to draw tourists as well as local citizens, will cost DM3.5 million.

The Kurfürstendamm will be a "dance and art mile", the city an exotic fair and the Wannsee a water stage.

A year ago 900,000 people in Lisbon watched Heller's first "fire theatre".

To get this scheme on the road he staked all he possessed in the tip of the scales and lost DM300,000.

In Portugal no admission charge was made. In West Berlin Heller does not stand to lose anything for his "Theatre of Fire" has been engaged by the organisers of "Summer Night's Dream".

Admission to the Platz der Republik on 7 July will be with a five-mark button instead of a ticket. The area will be flooded by 60,000 watt quadrophonic loud-speakers, so powerful that it will be like standing at the epicentre of an orchestra, according to Heller.

Music by Stravinsky, Berlioz, Alan Parson, Handel, Penderecki, Pink Floyd and others, and pyrotechnic effects will make the evening "a feast of the senses".

Heller has tried to allow fantasy and imagination to take flight in a world of pressing problems and wasted leisure time. He discovered "folk art," jugglers, artists and illusionists that he revived in his Roncalli Circus and the variety show "Flic Flac".

The firework show is "a trace of my childhood," said Heller. The fireworks that he saw as a child were for him too "mild".

In West Berlin Heller will use 4,000 specially designed rockets. It has been said that the pyrotechnic display will involve eleven tons of fireworks, "a magical message to the gods".

The ten firework tableau will be 120 metres high and 100 metres in width.

The enclosure in front of the Reichstag can hold 300,000 to 350,000 people. No one is worried that not enough people will turn up. On the contrary, there is concern how to control the crowds that are expected to flock to the event.

Hans Dornbach

(Nordwest Zeitung, 20 June 1984)

■ THE CINEMA

Museum pays homage to an industry's ingenuity

Hannoversche Allgemeine

The principle on which the motion picture is based was known long before the first cinema was opened. It was described in an 1829 Belgian PhD thesis as follows:

"Every image takes time to be registered by the human eye. The impression made by the image disappears gradually, not immediately."

The new German Film Museum in Frankfurt pays tribute to the many known and unknown inventors of the cinema, and visitors are as delighted by optical toys, the modest precursors of the motion picture, as their forefathers were.

The Frankfurt museum will cover the entire history of the cinema, or that at least is what is planned. The museum has only just been opened.

Housed in a totally refurbished late 19th-century building on the banks of the River Main, it is still in its early days and plans will take shape in the months ahead.

Exhibits so far testify mainly to cinematographic archaeology, consisting of inventions steadily leading up to the camera unveiled at the Grand Café in Paris by the Lumière brothers in 1895.

In a few months visitors to the Frankfurt museum will be able to take a break in an imitation Grand Café, the cafe where the world's first motion pictures were screened.

The guiding principle at the new museum is not to show visitors the exhibits carefully arrayed behind plate glass. They must be able to see and touch and take an active part in what they see.

The film museum has long been a favourite project of municipal arts director Hilmar Hoffmann, whose aim is to be able to take down as often as possible the "please don't touch" signs and replace them by an invitation to go ahead and do so.

A number of exhibits can already be moved and put to work. The first visitors enthusiastically tried out the phenakistiscope and studied the first moving pictures.

Former Bonn head of state Walter Scheel was one of many visitors who were entranced by an 1880 stereo device known as the Kaiserpanorama.

In three dimensions, as it were, it depicted everyday scenes dating back to 1880 or so and was delightful not only by virtue of its relevance to the development of motion pictures but also in view of the insight it gives us into a lost world of Victorian gardens and horse-drawn carriages.

The German Film Museum in Frankfurt is not the only film museum in Germany. The film section of Munich's Stadtmuseum, the Film Institute in Düsseldorf and the German Kinematheque in Berlin have impressive collections.

Yet so far the Frankfurt museum is the only one that is able to exhibit its stock in a building of its own, and a magnificent home it boasts too!

The library is a storehouse of information for film buffs. It comprises both the Film Museum's own stock and the nearly 50,000 books collected by the German Film Institute, which is also housed on the new premises.

There is also a generously equipped videotheque donated by Sony and fitted out with the latest equipment, and these facilities are not reserved for a handful of specialists and otherwise kept under lock and key. Anyone can use them.

Curator Walter Schobert, who for years has run the Kommunales Kino in Frankfurt, is particularly fond of the extensive collection of film music.

He is extremely proud of two 1920s old-timers, a Photo Player and a Wurlitzer cinema organ.

They are housed in the Kommunales Kino's superbly-equipped new home in the cellar of the museum and will soon provide a musical accompaniment to silent films.

The new museum's city-centre location, on the banks of the River Main, next door to the new German Architecture and Museum and near the city's best-known art gallery, the Städel, is a programme in itself, Hoffmann says.

He sees the film museum ranked alongside other museums physically and in standing. As the founder and long-standing organiser of the Oberhausen short film festival, he stresses time and again that the cinema is as much a part of general education and civilisation as any of the arts.

The film and architecture museums are the first of a dozen museums Hilmar Hoffmann has planned to line the banks of the River Main, and his idea has already, long before the project nears completion, proved the solution to a wide range of problems.

At a time when in architecture the post-moderns have yet to arrive at a style that is generally convincing, Frankfurt has not repeated the mistake of building a pseudo-modern concrete disaster such as the new History Museum.

Instead, the city has chosen to refurbish a row of late 19th-century buildings on the banks of the river and away from the city-centre skyscrapers.

The German Architecture Museum was opened next door to the film museum a week ago, also housed in an old building. So the architects faced similar tasks, and comparison is inevitably prompted by the two buildings standing side by side.



Celluloid on file. The museum library. (Photo: Knauf)

Oswald Mathias Ungers, the architect who designed the architecture museum, has unquestionably done a better job than Helge Bofinger, who redesigned the film museum building.

Bofinger uses red sandstone pillars to establish a modest architectural link between the two buildings. Ungers incorporates them in a plate-glass gallery surrounding the entire building.

Ungers successfully gives his museum an elegant, transparent new look. Bofinger merely clutters up what was originally a decorative entrance with plate glass and heavy iron struts.

He also plants four chunks of sandstone in front of the entrance, with slender brass pillars and a semicircular canopy roof on top of them.

The aim may have been to pay homage to cinema architecture in the halcyon days of the picture palace, but the effect is ungainly at best and merely obscures the fine old entrance without improving the appearance.

Yet the circular foyer is clearly reminiscent of bygone glamour, with plate glass all round and a blue neon circular design in the ceiling.

The way to the Kommunales Kino downstairs is down a magnificent white marble staircase that grows steadily wider, running straight into a marble wall that brings cinemagoers to an abrupt halt.

In the rectangular shape of the original building Bofinger diagonally incorporates another rectangle, which is thus more of a lozenge shape in relation to the original ground plan.



City lights. Laser beam display in Frankfurt to mark the move of a local cinema, Kommunales Kino, into the film museum building. (Photo: AP)

This addition houses the staircase and a number of smaller exhibition rooms but makes going round the building extremely confusing. But it creates countless corners in which to stage the exhibition scenically as envisaged by Herr Schobert.

Stage designer and film architect Jan Schlubach is to fit out the museum with historically decorated rooms for the permanent exhibits to make them look historically at home.

The camera obscura is already housed in appropriate surroundings: a tent like its erstwhile setting at the fun fair.

Initially, Bofinger plans to leave his architecture unadorned even though the discrepancy between his concept and the purpose of the building is thereby mad e even more clearly apparent.

Even where it is aesthetically satisfying, as in the upper storey, Bofinger's design sadly clashes with practical requirements of what is a multi-purpose building.

Others build libraries totally cut off from daylight, which makes sense in helping to preserve valuable books. Bofinger has built a fine glass roof with a wonderful view of the open sky.

It is just too bad that books will turn yellow in the full glare of the sun, one might argue. But it was decided to clad the glass roof in foil to filter out the light. So much for the magnificent view! And that is only one of many irritations.

At the opening ceremony the museum had many attractions to tempt visitors, such as a cafe and a well-stocked bookshop. Thousands of film fans, mainly young people, delightedly explored the building.

They also took in the Fellini exhibition, which in August and September can be seen in Hanover. A lucky few drew lots and won tickets for the unofficial German premiere of Fellini's latest film, *E la nave va.*

The others admired the gaily-coloured laser illuminations that link the old and new Kommunales Kino.

Maybe Hilmar Hoffmann's plan will one day come true and motor traffic will be sent underground, making the banks of the river a pedestrian precinct.

This is an idea many would like to see come true, but it is a busy road and the tunnel was proposed in days when the economy was still booming.

Only then would the much-vaunted museum park come fully into its own.

Lina Schneider

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 13 June 1984)

■ HEALTH

Training the brain: pepping up the cells with memory jogging

Memory jogging tones up the mind just as effectively as the physical variety keeps the body in trim, say the authors of a new book.

It contains a programme originally devised as a computer dialogue to help patients to convalesce, and the book seems sure to become a non-fiction bestseller.

Memory jogging is basically the by-product of an extensive research project carried out over several years. It was prompted by the discovery, made by doctors and psychologists, that patients' IQs decline markedly when they spend any length of time in hospital.

The change in surroundings is to blame. A hospital ward is a depressing environment. Patients don't get enough movement and are kept in a state of limbo, cut off from family and work.

The activity of their brain cells is slowed down. Their powers of logical thought decline. Their memories grow worse and worse as a result.

There is a swift improvement after about three weeks in hospital. By then the patient has come to terms with the new environment and got down to fresh activities in hospital, especially during convalescence.

The patient begins to show interest in what is going on outside hospital again. But brain damage is irreversible unless action is taken in time to help people

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

who are sick or bedridden for a long time.

In the late 1970s the Baden state pension fund commissioned a memory jogging programme from staff at Paderborn University.

Psychologist Siegfried Lehrl, one of the scientists who worked on the programme, is now on the staff of the psychiatric ward at Erlangen University Hospital.

Rows of figures and letters are arranged in a seemingly arbitrary fashion, alongside, above and below each other on the monitor screen or, in this case, in the book.

The aim is to memorise the sequences and work out connections. At the computer screen answers are entered in on the keyboard. Users of the book need a pencil. The objective is to train the memory and powers of concentration.

The learner patient may find it slow going, but he isn't expected to break records.

The first stage is concerned with recognising identical signs. Then short-term memory is trained and, finally, long-term memory.

Can the patient remember specific signs and sequences after some time? If he can, psychologists say he has successfully exercised his long-term memory.

That can be extremely useful for patients, such as young motorcyclists hospitalised after serious crashes in which they have suffered brain damage.

They need to relearn and train their mental powers. It does the healthy no harm either. Memory jogging could become a craze.

Dr Lehrl compares his rows of letters and numbers with crossword puzzles, card and other games. Mental exercise is always an important aspect of leisure activities of this kind.

So there are no limits to memory jogging. Ten minutes a day at the office can counteract the consequences of routine work.

People who take the book with them on holiday need have no fears of difficulty in readjusting to work after weeks spent lazing in the sun.

The authors make no claim to have devised a technique by which to develop intelligence, but they do feel memory jogging counteracts symptoms of ageing.

Memory jogging brushes up a failing memory and can also effectively combat feelings of loneliness. Similar techniques of mental exercise are even used in space.

Both US astronauts and Soviet cosmonauts practise mental therapy along the lines of memory jogging, having discovered that everyone who spends weeks cooped up in a space capsule tends to return with a poor general bill of health.

The basic programme devised in Paderborn can be extended. It is generally felt to be an ideal training programme to be tackled singlehandedly.

It is much more than a game. It would appear to be humanly and medically essential as a general health precaution and a therapy for use during convalescence.

Initial experiments with groups of volunteers have shown that memory jogging is popular with old and young alike, with hard-pressed executives and hospital patients.

Yet even memory jogging has limits inasmuch as it is no substitute for the lack of sensual stimulus resulting from life in a sterile, monotonous environment.

Walks, travel, observation of nature, visits to museums, music and sport are important catalysts. They help to keep the senses receptive, which is an indispensable prerequisite for technical intelligence, which can then be trained by memory jogging.

The right diet and physical activity are of similarly fundamental importance if training the mind is to prove effective.

Siegfried Lehrl and his colleagues have not couched their report in cumbersome scientific terms. The book is easy to read, enjoyable and practical in every respect.

Wolfgang Stöckel

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 25 June 1984)

Siegfried Lehrl and others, Gehirn Jogging (Memory Jogging), MEDITEG-Verlag, Wehrheim, DM29.80.

German eating habits: full now, ill later

West Germans still eat much more than they need: too much sugar, too much fat and too much alcohol. Diet-related illness costs at least DM40bn a year, says Bonn Health Minister Heiner Geissler.

He was outlining details of the Bonn government's new nutrition report. It is the fifth, is to be mailed to all institutions dealing with nutritional issues, and cost the Ministry DM172,000.

The over-30s are said to be particularly prone to overweight. Illnesses caused by overweight increase considerably in this age group.

They include cardiac and circulatory complaints, high blood pressure, arteriosclerosis of the brain, diabetes and gout.

Between the age of 36 and 65 West Germans on average derive over 12 per cent of their energy intake from alcohol.

Smokers need more vitamins than non-smokers. Young people tend to have an ill-balanced diet, with too much emphasis on sweets and potato chips.

The latest statistics reveal that West Germans are world champion meat-eaters, sinking their teeth into 90kg per head per year.

But eating too much meat triggers many complaints typical of advanced societies. Much food is said to be over-salted. Consumers ought to be able to decide for themselves how much salt they eat.

Sugar consumption is still high at 37kg per year, but at least there has been no further increase. Herr Geissler says health safety campaigns have started to have an effect in this connection.

He also feels some headway has been made in reducing residual toxins in foodstuffs. The "food burden on the consumer" is said to have been eased.

The number of complaints about veterinary medicines has declined since the mid-1970s. The health hazard of an

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

unbalanced diet is certainly greater than that of residual toxins in food.

Checks are to be made all over the country to make sure how high the toxin count in foodstuffs is.

Inadequate hygiene in handling food is another health hazard. Food poisoning is on the increase, says the Federal Statistics Office. In 1982 there were 40,000 registered cases of salmonellosis.

Special attention is now to be paid to the psycho-social evaluation of food in families with children. Overweight is not the only problem. One young girl in three is underweight. Eating habits are influenced in childhood.

The report was compiled by 60 scientists. They would like to see food dealt with at school.

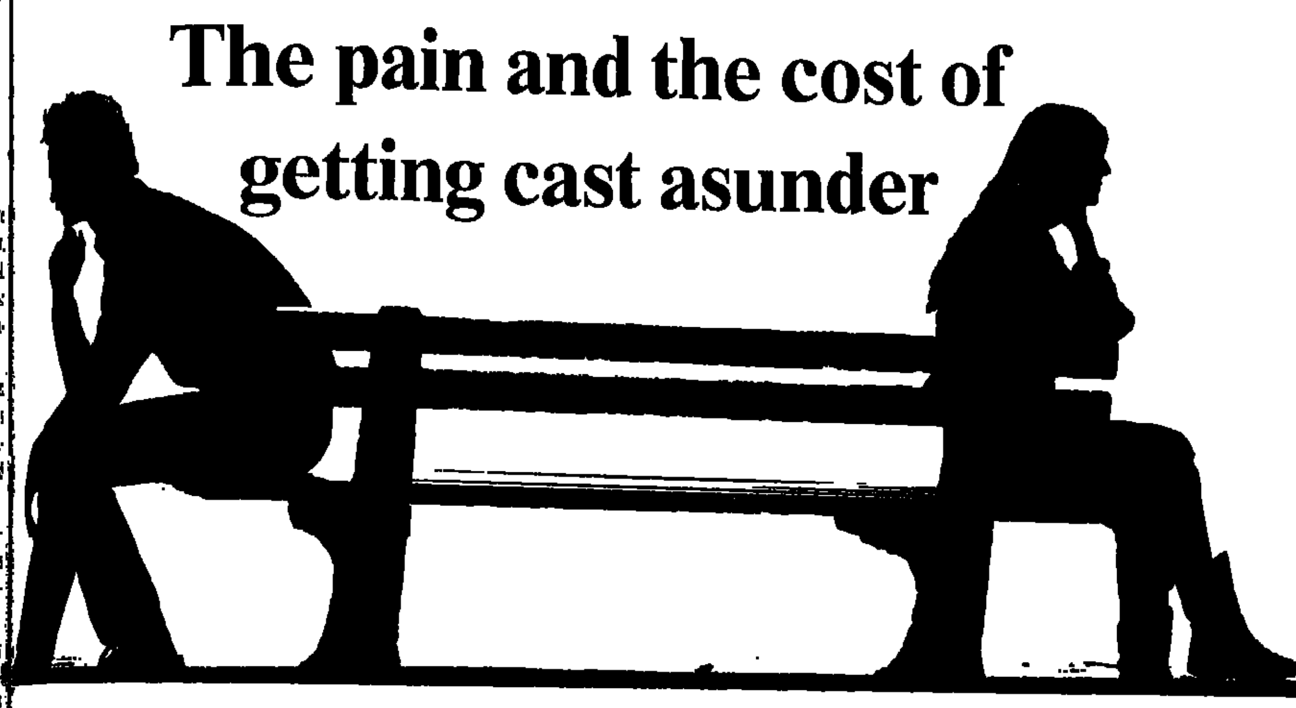
Nutrition, says Professor Erich Menden of Giessen, head of the German Nutrition Association, is either barely mentioned or dealt with unsatisfactorily in 500 school textbooks.

Margret Kämpf

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 26 June 1984)

■ MARRIAGE

The pain and the cost of getting cast asunder



(Photo: Presse-Bild-Poss)

No-one disputes the need to revise the divorce law reform in force since summer 1977. Views differ merely as to where changes are needed and what form they must take.

Several years ago the Federal Constitutional Court criticised three main features that needed reappraising and rearranging in Bonn:

The strict five-year period after which any marriage can be annulled is to be redefined more flexibly.

Claims made by the parent who has custody of the child or children must not be based solely on the fact of custody. If maintenance arrangements are clearly unfair, more flexible provisions must be made.

Compensation in lieu of pension rights must not be intolerably expensive.

Christian and Free Democratic legal experts reached a coalition agreement before Whit on the second point, which means more must follow.

The proposals submitted to the coalition parties in the Bonn Bundestag go well beyond the demands specified by the Constitutional Court judges.

The change as envisaged amounts to a fundamental revision of maintenance arrangements after a divorce decree. The politicians may dispute the fact, but the proposals speak for themselves.

First, the divorce law is to be rewritten to provide for maintenance to be limited in time, reduced in amount or disallowed entirely when the recipient is guilty of clear and gross misbehaviour.

This provision is also to apply when an applicant for maintenance rides roughshod over the ex-husband or wife's financial interests or has failed for some time to contribute toward the upkeep of the family.

These turns of phrase were not simply dreamt up by politicians. They were borrowed from legal judgments, mainly Supreme Court rulings.

In a case in which a wife blackened her ex-husband's standing with his employer, ruined his reputation, reduced his income and still demanded maintenance payments, the court ruled years ago that she had ridden roughshod over serious financial interests of his and dismissed her maintenance claim.

In another case a former Bundeswehr officer studied at university at his ex-wife's expense (she was a well-to-do dentist). He constantly had affairs with other women yet still demanded that she pay for his upkeep.

The court held him guilty of serious misbehaviour and dismissed his maintenance claim.

Such rulings are based on the present law, which has come as a disappointment to many whose hopes were exaggerated. For years the reformed divorce law has been accused of leaving a loophole open for the reintroduction of the guilt principle.

So there are frequent disputes among the experts as to whether individual rulings are right. But no-one would say the law is urgently in need of revision. The Constitutional Court judges did not set a deadline either.

But now the Bonn coalition's legal experts plan to rewrite the law to cover such cases the wording used assumes greater importance.

It virtually calls on judges and couples who apply for a decree to poke around in the past in a quest for gross misbehaviour and the like.

It is as though no-one ever realised, before the 1977 divorce law reform, that guilt was strictly relative and a court was ill-suited to rule on who was to blame for the break-up of a marriage.

Second, the proposals envisage mentioning twice in their revised version of the divorce law that maintenance can be awarded for a limited period if a couple have not been married long enough to make a lifelong arrangement seem warranted.

Provided some such arrangement seems fair and reasonable, maintenance can be run down and phased out, and in some cases this may be necessary and make sense.

There undeniably are cases in which mean little women milk their ex-husbands for all they are worth even when they have long been able to fend for themselves.

The example usually cited is that of the surgeon's wife who expects to be kept in comfort for the rest of her life. But she is the exception, not the rule. If the number of instances in which the comparison is apt were compared with the number of times it is cited, the ratio would surely be 1 to 100.

The statistical reality is entirely different. The main basis on which maintenance awards are made these days is unemployment. Divorced women who have looked after the home and family for years are soon classified as no-hopers when they register at the labour exchange.

As a rule they no longer qualify for unemployment benefit. If for some reason they are no longer entitled to maintenance from the man whose home and family they looked after, social security is all they are entitled to, and that is a bare minimum.

What is more, although the social security department will fork out, it is just as sure to try and recover the money from other relatives, local authorities being chronically short of cash.

The social security is entitled to claim reimbursement from divorced women's children and parents even if, to cite the example one last time, her ex-husband is a well-heeled surgeon.

Heiner Geissler, Family Affairs Minister in Bonn, ought to be appalled at the realisation that this can happen. How can he hope to persuade working girls to marry and have families when this Victorian fate may be their lot?

The coalition proposals envisage the new provisions being applied to all decrees granted since mid-1977 provided maintenance commitments would differ substantially as a result.

It requires little imagination to see what will happen if these proposals become law. Everyone who pays maintenance to a divorced wife (or husband) will embark on a quest for some misbehaviour or other on the ex's part to justify reducing alimony.

That would mean taking a fresh look at cases that have long been considered closed. Divorce courts will be saddled with extra work in plenty (but not a single extra clerk). They will have no choice but to let a backlog mount up.

Finally, Bonn plans to deal with a point that has no immediate connection with maintenance payments in the wake of a divorce.

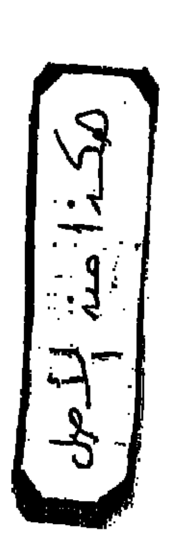
Payments in lieu of pension rights can be deferred if a court finds that an immediate settlement would come "at the wrong time." What that means is that divorced housewives would have to wait.

Even interest payments are to be deferrable, which would mean amending Paragraph 1382 of the Civil Code, which since 1958 has provided for respite, but not because payment would come at the wrong time, whatever that might mean.

All in all, the Bonn coalition's proposals amount to a drastic reduction in divorced persons' rights that goes well beyond what the Constitutional Court has recommended.

First, by referring to gross misbehaviour and dereliction of duty the revised version virtually instructs divorce

Continued on page 14



■ SOCIETY

Playing Canute to the rising tide of video nasties

DIE WELT

Forty two per cent of the non-pornographic video cassette titles available in West Germany last year featured horror or violence, according to German video institute statistics.

They could be hired at a daily cost of between 50 pfennigs and five marks at nearly 6,000 outlets.

Films featuring sex and violence are far and away the most popular, according to the limited figures available in the industry. School investigations confirm that they are most popular at lower social levels.

Why? And what can be done? Parents representatives, teachers and others tried to find some answers at a meeting in Gummersbach. But they didn't have much success,and went home a little disillusioned.

There is no sure scientific way of determining what the effects of violence on the screen are, whether it helps purge desires towards violence, or stimulates it, or dulls it.

The aim is, naturally, to anticipate possible side effects and act to prevent them.

There are many doubts that tougher laws are the answer. The main problem is that the State cannot meddle in the rights of the family. Many parents themselves watch horror and violence on the box and see no reason at all why the children should not watch as well.

The head of the Federal authority which controls books, magazines and films that might be harmful to the young, is Rudolf Stefen. He would rather have the existing laws more strictly applied than new ones.

Many of course doubt how efficient even the most perfect of controls would be. After all, the temptation is greatest towards what is forbidden. In addition, parents can always get the banned cassettes for their children.

A well-meant suggestion that the video nasties addicts should be talked to and persuaded that their fare is harmful, is not likely to succeed. People who watch blood being spilt do it for the thrill and aren't open to rational argument.

A lot of talk is given to examining the social origins of the video nasties habit. These conclusion revolve, for example, round theories such as the inhibitions developed in a regimented society, compulsions to conform to social rules and a resultant emotional immaturity.

The argument runs that in such a society, the normal desire for risk-taking and adventure cannot be fulfilled and the video is the substitute. Lots of high-flown terms were bandied around at the meeting: scope for creativity, encouragement of personal encounters, self realisation, finding one's own identity. But no one explained how these were to be converted into action. So we have the video nasties, another monster. Just like we have other monsters — television, comics, alcohol, drugs, pornography, punks and the fringe religious sects.

Susanne Plück
(Die Welt, 30 May 1984)

Cassettes go ker. . . runch

Half a million marks worth of video cassettes ... steamrollered in Düsseldorf in a protest by video ... tailers from all over Germany against moves agai... film violence. They also wanted to declare support... protecting young people from excesses. (Photo ...)

Baby-sitting diploma all wrapped up

A welfare organisation in Kassel, *Arbeiterwohlfahrt* (AWO), has 130 babysitters on its books. And 16 of them have certificates to show that they know what they're doing.

AWO runs courses for babysitters. The third diploma course is underway and among the pupils are nine young women and a lady who will soon be a grandmother.

The course is as realistic as it can be. Course head Christa Knöfel has made available her 18-month-old son, Christian.

But since he would probably object to being dunked in water 10 times a night, a doll is also used.

"Besides," says Christa, "the doll stays still and doesn't splash."

Pupils take six lessons during which they learn not only how a baby is bathed, wrapped-up and fed, but also how to avoid dangerous situations in the home and how to give first aid.

AWO charges nothing, but pupils are obliged not to take more than four marks an hour, regardless of whether or not they actually get their certificate.

Another course head, Beate Lorenz, says: "The aim is not to help people make money. The main thing is having fun with babies."

Another AWO staff member claims that the course helps people increase their self-esteem, make contact with others, remove isolation, and break down anonymity.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 7 June 1984)

New laws to clamp down on alcohol sales to children

Laws are to be changed to make it tougher for young people to get alcohol. Sales of alcoholic drinks to anyone under 16 are to be banned under legislation to be introduced at the beginning of next year.

The legal drinking age in West Germany is 18 but the habit has been to sell to younger people if they wanted it for an adult.

It will also become illegal for adults to allow children to drink alcohol in public places.

The present laws are 30 years old and have been the subject of protests by various groups. As it is, children up to 15 years of age can go to licenced premises only if they are accompanied by an adult. There are exceptions involving such things as travel and career training when meals are involved.

But the proposed legislation is al... liberalising some aspects. Child... will no longer need to be in the com... pany of an adult on licenced premis...

Now, those up to and including 1... years will be able to stay on licen... premises until 8pm; 14- and 15-yea... olds until 10pm; and 16- and 17-yea... olds until midnight.

Disco owners can breathe easy... before children must be 16 before th... can go to a disco, but it means that 1... and 17-year-olds will be able to st... until midnight without an adult a... not, as is the case now, only until 10... and with an adult.

This is the age group that discos a... heavily dependent on. The Germ... discotheque association has for a lo... time been pushing for such changes.

In West Germany alcohol is av... able as a matter of course in superma... kets, corner shops, and thousands ... quick food stalls and kiosks. T... changes mean that children will not ... able to claim that the drink is for ... ther or for work colleagues — if ... law is strictly enforced.

In addition, there is to be a clam... down on access to automatic dispe... ing machines such as those at au... bahn rest areas which have beer a... wine. Officials want them banned.

The new measures are intended ... stop the increasing incidence of alc... holism among children.

Another suggestion, that restr... tions be also placed on cigarette ve... ing machines has been dropped b... cause lawyers say they would be diff... cult to enforce.

Uwe Hän...
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 20 June 198...)

Continued from page 13

Marriage

courts to dismiss maintenance claims on grounds of "guilt."

Second, by allowing arrangements to be made in keeping with the individual case, courts are to be allowed to reduce, phase out or end maintenance on the strength of vague criteria.

The only yardstick clearly mentioned is how long a couple have been married. Anything else seems likely to be at the judge's discretion.

The new-look divorce law reform proposals thus depart from a cornerstone of the 1977 reform, which was aimed at both making it easier to get a divorce and ensuring that the weaker party did not get a raw deal. This balance now stands to be upset.

Eleven years ago Free Democrat Hans Engelhard, the present Justice Minister, was the first speaker in the Bundestag to hail what was later to be the 1977 divorce law reform as a mainstay of the legal policies advocated by the Social and Free Democratic coalition.

His words can be read in the Bundestag's parliamentary records for 8 June 1973. Now the FDP is back in coalition harness with the Christian Democrats, Herr Engelhard is keen to see the 1977 reform scrapped heedless of the express views of his party's home and legal affairs committee and its equal rights and family affairs commission.

Karl-Hermann Flach, a former FDP general secretary, wrote in a famous pamphlet of his that history had shown that in the course of emancipation movements "a group of officials invariably emerges that before long develops social interests of its own that fairly soon part company, in actions if not in words, from the rank and file and the aims of the movement."

It looks as though Justice Minister Engelhard is heading in that very direction. It will be interesting to see whether his parliamentary party (which has yet to vote on the proposals) backs him.

Will the Free Democrats endorse the reform of the divorce law reform proposed by an FDP Justice Minister? We shall see. The Free Democrats are rightly allergic to accusations of being constant turncoats.

Eva Marie von Münch
(Die Zeit, 22 June 1984)

OUR WORLD

Struwwelpeter still going strong in many tongues

DIE WELT

...die Mutter kommt nach Haus,
...der Konrad traurig aus.
...Daumen steht er dort,
...sind alle beide fort.

...his verse comes from the children's book, *Struwwelpeter*, by ...rich Hoffmann. Although the title ...slates as Shock-headed Peter, it is ...er known in English by the original ...man title.

There is hardly a language Struwwelpeter has not been translated into, ...now the publishers have produced ...language polyglot volume to com...morate the 175th anniversary of the ...th of Hoffmann.

The verse comes from — Geschichte ... Daumenlutscher, (Stories of the ... who sucked his thumb), one of the ...uwwelpeter polyglott, collection by ...tscher Taschenbuch Verlag, Mu...ich.

The verses, known by heart by gen...rations of children in many countries. ...e new volume features them in Ger...n, English, French, Spanish, Italian ...d Latin.

This will be of much interest for linguists, who will be able to compare the original Hoffmann product with the translations.

Dr Heinrich Hoffmann was a neurologist and a director of the Frankfurt psychiatric clinic.

Struwwelpeter came into being because at Christmas in 1844 Dr Hoffmann could not find a suitable picture book for his son Carl Philipp. So he decided to write and draw a book himself.

He did not have publication in mind. But it was circulated to friends, in a simple exercise book and gave so much pleasure that it was offered for publication. It was later expanded

By 1939 the stories of "Wicked Friederich", "Little Pauline", of "Flying Robert" and the companions and "companions in misfortune" had had 5,000 reprints.

It is now estimated that more than 25 million copies have been sold.

The manuscript of the original is held by the Germanisches Nationalmuseum in Nuremberg.

Struwwelpeter was not entirely an original creation of Dr Hoffmann. Some of the characters had appeared before in children's books. They were adopted by Hoffmann, given a new form.

Dr Hoffmann illustrated educational ideas of his times. The story of "The little Black Boy" who mocks the Moor is intended to show children that this is objectionable, what we would today call racial discrimination.





Heinrich Hoffmann and his creation. It all began in a school exercise book.
(Photo: Frank Feldmann)

Like all famous books, *Struwwelpeter* has been mockingly altered and parodied for political ends. It has been recorded, filmed, and commercialised. For example, there is Struwwelpeter chocolate.

It has been much discussed by teachers.

A few years ago, it was condemned as "preserving a reactionary structure of society".

There are two museums in Frankfurt devoted to —Struwwelpeter, the Heinrich Hoffmann House and the Struwwelpeter Museum.

As always Struwwelpeter has survived all interpretations and attacks.

Soon after the appearance of the stories critics condemned them for their cruelty and frightful influence. Hoffmann answered these criticisms in a foreword for the 100th re-print. He said that children urgently needed to find out the right rules of living.

Struwwelpeter has not only conquered abroad but has done so at home: the stories have appeared in the dialects from the Palatinate and Saarland, Plattdeutsch and the dialect of Cologne, in the Franconian dialect and the dialects found in Düsseldorf, Koblenz, Neuss and Triers.

Karl P. Aponer
(Die Welt, 12 June 1984)

15-year-old teaches adults all about computers

WELT am SONNTAG

Kai Ludwig is 15. He is still at high school and is probably the youn... university lecturer between the ...der and the Inn.

He teaches adults in computer sci...e at adult evening classes in Düssel...orf.

He wears a sweat shirt, running ...es and has the first traces of a thin ...ustache.

Kai describes how to programme a ...shing machine. He says it is quite ...ple and is amazed that his adult pu...s find it so hard to understand.

"Too many are frightened of the ...mputer," he says.

"They don't understand it. It con...ses them. Young people don't have ...at sort of respect for it." Kai Ludwig ... one of the constantly increasing ...mber of young people who get more ...from software than from scooters, ...o spend their leisure time with hard...are and not with football.

Four years ago, Kai, the son of a ...cher parents in Neuss, watched his ...her assemble his own computer. He ...e to understand it quicker than his ...her and programmed it.

Kai said: "I saved my money and ...ught my own home computer."

Six months later he needed a better ...e. After another six months he ...eded yet another.

Now Kai has lost his enthusiasm for ...e computers completely. He plays ...th a professional unit, advises his fa...her when he has a computer problem, ...d gets paid to supply a company with ...ftware. A month ago he attended an ...ternational marketing congress in Monte ...arlo. Computer magazines ask him ...r advice.

He maintains that there is too much "stress" in the leisure activities boys his own age pursue.

There are 10,000 young people who "play" with computers for a hobby. Until now 300,000 home computers have been sold in the Federal Republic, 240,000 of them to people below the age of twenty.

One young lad said: "You get addicted. You tell it what to do and it does it." A salesman in a Düsseldorf computer shop said: "Young people over-run the shop. They put specialist questions to me that I cannot answer."

Customers who want to play about with demonstration computers in a department store have to wait until the long queue of young people has gone. A department store spokesman said: "They spend most of their leisure time here."

Schools have taken up computers as well. There is hardly any educational institution that does not work with computers. One schoolboy has so programmed his computer so that it can do his Latin declensions for him.

The Heilwig High School in Hamburg has six professional computers for teaching, bought at a total cost of DM35,000.

Children will not be deprived of computers during their holidays, either. In the Harz computer holidays are organised for young people for DM875 for two weeks, and "Club Aldiana" offers older people holidays in Tunisia with a "computer atmosphere".

There are critics of this kind of progress. The "progressive" SPD politician Freimut Duve regards the emphasis on computers as "a radical devaluation of human thought".

The Hamburg informatics professor Klaus Brunnstein fears the development of two classes of young people and "socio-cultural problems".

He maintains that computers threaten separation, one group is involved with computers as a new culture-technique and develop their own language. The vast masses reject this. There is the threat that there will be a lack of communication by the spoken word between the two groups."

Kai Ludwig is not satisfied with the way things are. "America," he says "has it best."

In Forest City, Iowa, the population is 4,350 and there are 800 computers. Three-year-olds like to play best of all with hardware in the city's kindergarten.

Rüdiger Winter
(Welt am Sonntag, 17 June 1984)